

# THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



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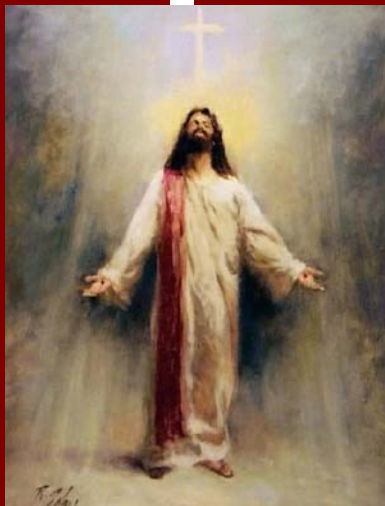
## I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Christians believe in the one and only God who is perfect, all-knowing and all-powerful. He is the creator of the entire universe and every living thing in it. He created man in his own image – having free will, intellect, emotions, spirit and body for fellowship with him.

God is revealed to us in the wonders of creation. God is also revealed to us through the Jews whom he chose as his people. He raised Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, through the 10 plagues in Egypt and the spectacular crossing of the Red Sea into the Promised Land of Canaan.

He revealed his name to Moses – he is the great I AM ; He is also known as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the living; the Holy One of Israel, and the Father of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

God is fully revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.



## I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY SON, OUR LORD

Christians believe that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit. He was born of a Jewish virgin, Mary, about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, in modern day Israel. He lived for about 33 years on earth. He taught the people about the kingdom of God, healed the sick, gave the blind their sight and even raised the dead. He was crucified on a cross in Jerusalem even though he lived a sin-less life and he was not guilty of any crime.

He died and was buried. 2000 years ago, he physically died but on the third day, he was resurrected, never to die again. There were many witnesses to his resurrection.

40 days later, he ascended to heaven. He is alive today and seated at the right hand of God. Jesus will return at the end of time to judge the world.

Jesus Christ is unique. He is the only human being who lived a sinless life and who conquered death by his resurrection. He is the only person who is both fully man and fully God. He is God's chosen saviour of the world. He said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." He is ALIVE today.

*Jesus Christ is his name in Greek. "Jesus" means God Saves. "Christ" means the Anointed One. In Hebrew, this name, Jesus Christ is "Yeshua Maschiah."*

## **I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who co-exists with the Father and the Son. He was actively involved in the creation at the beginning of time.

The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:7-11). He dwells in any person who accepts Jesus as his only LORD and Saviour. He is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Jesus had promised his disciples that God would send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever. The Holy Spirit would be the Comforter and the Counsellor, and he would teach them all things that are needed for life. (John 14:15–27).

This happened 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit arrived in great power on all his followers who were gathered at Jerusalem. The indwelling Spirit of God enabled the good news of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed to all parts of the known world.

Today, the Holy Spirit continues his work in every Christian. He transforms each one of us to be like Jesus and to do the work of Jesus.

## **I BELIEVE IN THE ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH;**

The one holy church refers to the one body of people who are called into the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus Christ to belong to and obey God.

The church is catholic, which means universal and serves all peoples in the entire world. Catholic also means orthodoxy based on the Bible.

The apostolic church is responsible to bring the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

### **THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

This communion of saints refers to ordinary believers today including those who lived in the past and those who will in the future, confess that Jesus is their only LORD and Saviour.

### **THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

Sin separates man from God. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. In doing so, he reconciled man to God. When we turn from our sins and acknowledge Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for us, we appropriate this forgiveness so that we become children of God who imitate Him by following Jesus' example and obeying Jesus' commands.

### **THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY**

In the future, when Jesus Christ comes again, there will be a resurrection of our bodies.

### **THE LIFE EVERLASTING**

Believers will live in the new heavens and the new earth in the eternal presence of God.



## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:2 - 17

1. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BUT ME.
2. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF ANY IDOL, NOR BOW DOWN TO IT OR WORSHIP IT.
3. YOU SHALL NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD.
4. YOU SHALL REMEMBER TO KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY.
5. HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.
6. YOU MUST NOT KILL.
7. YOU MUST NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
8. YOU MUST NOT STEAL.
9. YOU MUST NOT GIVE FALSE EVIDENCE AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOUR.
10. YOU MUST NOT BE COVETOUS OF YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S GOODS. YOU SHALL NOT BE ENVIOUS OF HIS HOUSE NOR HIS WIFE, NOR ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOUR.

The Ten Commandments were written by God and given to Moses on Mount Sinai in the form of two stone tablets. They are the code of living for God's people; they tell of the Christian's duty to God, to himself and to others. Many countries in the world base their laws on these commandments.



## THE CHRISTIAN SACRAMENTS

These are the rites that Jesus, Himself underwent and commanded of His followers.

A sacrament is an outward visible sign of an inward spiritual grace received through obedience and trust.

### BAPTISM

Jesus was baptised by John, His second cousin in the Jordan River. Replacing the Old Testament rite of Circumcision, Jesus commanded that His disciples be baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and obey all that He has commanded.



### HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus was presiding over the Passover Meal (Covenant rite of the Old Testament) when in breaking the unleavened bread, He declared, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me"; likewise after supper He took the cup of wine, saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

In partaking of the elements of bread and wine during Holy Communion, the Christian, walking in penitence and in obedience, feeds on the body and the blood of Christ spiritually in his/her heart.

