

Christian Worldview Basics: What's Unique About Christianity?

Worldview Camp: Connection Point Christian Church – 2022

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Introduction

- A. Worldview believers in the world
 1. Christian: **31** percent
 2. Muslim: **25** percent
 3. Nothing (atheist and no-religious connection) : **16** percent
 4. Hindu: **15** percent
 5. Buddhist: **7** percent
 6. Others: **7** percent
- B. Major branches of Christianity
 1. Roman Catholic
 2. Protestant (thousands of “denominations”)
 3. Eastern Orthodox
 4. In spite of the apparent division, all Christian branches accept the same **CORE** beliefs of Christianity!
- C. Key questions:
 1. What are the core beliefs of Christianity?
 2. What's unique about Christianity?
- D. Important Scriptures
 1. **John 14:6** “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”
 2. **I Cor. 15:1-6a** “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time,…”
 3. **Jude 1:3** “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”

I. GOD

- A. All powerful; all knowing; all good (holy) (Matt. 19:26; Ps. 147:5; 1 Jn. 3:20);
- B. _____ **ETERNAL** _____ (Ps. 90:2).
- C. _____ **CREATOR** _____ (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 19:1-2; Rom. 1:19-20).
- D. Personal & _____ **LOVING** _____ (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:8; Rom. 5:8).
- E. Transcendent: He is _____ **ABOVE** _____ us (Ps. 148:5,13).
- F. Immanent: He is _____ **WITH** _____ us (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 14:27; 1 Cor. 6:19; Phil. 4:9);
- G. Incarnate: God “in _____ **FLESH** _____” in Jesus (Jn. 1:1,14; Isa. 7:14).
- H. Trinity: _____ **ONE** _____ God in THREE _____ **PERSONS** _____ (Matt. 28:19; 1 Pet. 1:2). [Diagram on “The Shield of the Trinity”]

II. JESUS

- A. The “_____ **SON** _____ of God” (Jn. 3:16; Heb. 1:2; 1 Jn. 5:5, 11-13, 20).
- B. _____ **ETERNAL** _____ (Jn. 1:1-2).
- C. _____ **CREATOR** _____ (Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 1:).
- D. God in _____ **FLESH** _____ (Jn. 1:1, 14, 18).
- E. The _____ **FULLNESS** of deity in bodily form (Col. 2:9).
- F. The _____ **IMAGE** [*ikon*] of the invisible God (Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 4:4).
- G. The “exact _____ **IMPRINT**” (ESV) or the “exact _____ **REPRESENTATION** (NIV) [*charakter*] of God’s nature (Heb. 1:3).

III. THE UNIVERSE

- A. _____ **CREATED** by God (Gen. 1:1; 5:2; Isaiah 42:5; Col. 1:16).
- >>> Not eternal
 - >>> Not self-created
- B. Allows for God’s _____ **ACTION** _____.
- Providence
 - God works *in* _____ **HISTORY** _____ at specific times and places.
 - Miracles (e.g., the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead) (Jn. 21:14; Acts 2:31-32; 1 Cor. 15:3-4).

IV. HUMANS

- A. Created by God in his _____ **“IMAGE”** _____ (Gen. 1:26-27).
- Personal
 - Rational
 - Moral
 - Free will (e.g., can repent of sin)
- B. Are all _____ **SINFUL** _____ (Rom. 3:9, 21-23).

V. HUMAN SALVATION

- A. According to God's _____ **PROMISED** plan (Acts 2:22-23; 3:18,24).
- B. Salvation _____ **ONLY** through Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:5-6; Acts 4:12) who was _____ **CRUCIFIED** for our sin (Rom. 5:6-10; Col. 1:19-22).
- C. Requires human _____ **REPENTANCE** (Mark 1:15; Lk. 13:1-3; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- D. "By _____ **GRACE** ... through faith ... not a result of _____ **WORKS** (Eph. 2:8).

VI. GOD'S COMMUNICATION

- A. In _____ **MANY** _____ ways throughout history (Heb. 1:1).
- B. In _____ **NATURE** _____ (Ps. 19:1-2; Rom. 1:18-20).
- C. In _____ **SCRIPTURE** _____ (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:16, 20-21).
- D. In _____ **JESUS** _____ (Jn. 1:1, 14, 18).
- E. God's salvation message was _____ **COMPLETED** _____ (Gal. 1:6-9; Jude 1:3-4).

VII. DEATH

- A. We will die _____ **ONCE** _____ (Heb. 9:27).
- B. We will then be _____ **JUDGED** _____ (Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 1:6; Rev. 20:12).
- Individual existence after death.
 - No reincarnation.

Reflection and Discussion on “Christian Worldview Basics: What’s Unique?”

Use your session notes and other resources to reflect on, and discuss, the following.

1. Share ONE highlight or big idea you took from this session.
2. What TWO passages of Scripture seemed most significant or most valuable to you? Why?
3. Reflect on each of the main categories discussed (see below).
 1. What did you learn, if anything, that was *new* to you?
 2. Did anything seem *different from* what you thought before?
 3. How can some of these core beliefs of Christianity *personally apply to you*? For example, how can they give you encouragement, confidence, comfort, etc.?

God	Jesus	The Universe	Humans
Human Salvation	God’s Communication	Death	

4. Are there any “core” beliefs of Christianity that you think should be *added* to, or *deleted from*, those presented in this session?
5. What question(s) do you have about what was covered? (These can be discussed in your small group, but they might also be addressed in a follow-up session or by the final Q&A panel.)