

# Christianity

<p><b>Name of God (if any):</b></p> <p><b>God</b> (Jehovah)</p> <p><b>“Founder” (if any):</b></p> <p><b>Jesus</b> (the Christ/Messiah)</p> <p><b>Holy Book or Writings (if any):</b></p> <p>(Holy) <b>Bible</b>          Old Testament (read by Jews and Christians)          New Testament (read only by Christians)</p> <p><b>Where practiced:</b></p> <p><b>Europe, N/S America, Australia; widespread, 1/3 of world</b></p>	<p><b>Basic Beliefs:</b></p> <p><b>Jesus was Jewish;</b> Christians believe that he is the Messiah/the Christ that the Jews were hoping for. (Jews do not believe he is that person.) <b>Christianity has foundation in Judaism.</b> [<b>Christ = Messiah;</b> both mean “Anointed One,” one in Greek (Christos), one in Hebrew (Mashiah)]</p> <p>Within the Bible:</p> <p><b>Gospels:</b> 4 “biographies” of Jesus, each written by an apostle  <b>Epistles:</b> “letters” mostly written by the Apostle Paul to new Christian communities and individuals providing guidance on Christ and Christian living  <b>Parables:</b> stories with morals used for teaching by Jesus, usually <b>uses a contrast</b> to make a point</p> <p><b>Apostle:</b> knew &amp; followed Jesus, or someone considered a messenger of Jesus (12)  <b>Disciple:</b> follower of Jesus but may not have known Jesus personally</p> <p><b>Place of worship:</b> church (sometimes: temple, chapel, cathedral)  <b>Religious teachers:</b> priest, minister, pastor, preacher, reverend          (Catholics: pope, cardinal, bishop, monsignor, father/sister/brother)</p> <p><b>crucifixion:</b> execution by hanging on a cross until dead  <b>resurrection:</b> return to life, arise from the dead</p> <p><b>Trinity</b> (Tri = three; these entities are separate but “one”)  <b>Father (God)</b>  <b>Son (Jesus)</b>  <b>Holy Spirit/Ghost</b></p> <p><b>Saul:</b> originally persecuted Christians, had a conversion to Christianity, became “Paul,” began converting others, especially Gentiles, to Christianity. He could relate to many groups of people (Jews, Greeks, Romans). Traveled widely, wrote epistles.</p> <p><b>Missionary:</b> spreads faith while traveling (proselytizes)  <b>Gentiles:</b> non-Jews  <b>Proselytizing:</b> trying to convert others to your religion  <b>Persecute:</b> to oppress or harass (to the point of death)  <b>Teachings of Jesus:</b> love, peace, justice, compassion, forgiveness, living simply (Some people call themselves Christians because they believe in following someone who taught these– they might not go along with the other parts.)  <b>Creed:</b> statement of beliefs  <b>Doctrine of Salvation for Christians (You do NOT need to write this down. Just FYI):</b>          “Sin” (bad deeds) is not compatible with an all-good God. Humans are “sinful.” Humans have to “pay” for their sins before they can have a relationship with the all-good God or to Heaven for their afterlife. Sometimes the “payment” would be death. Jesus’ purpose was to “pay” for that sin so humans could have a relationship with God. The crucifixion was the “paying” (death) for the sins. In the resurrection, Jesus overcame death which enabled the restoration of the relationship with God. People can claim this benefit if they acknowledge Jesus’ role. Christians believe that they should tell other people about this opportunity.</p> <p><b>Holy Days (holidays):</b>  <b>Christmas:</b> celebrates birth of Jesus  <b>Good Friday:</b> commemorates the crucifixion (death) of Jesus  <b>Easter:</b> celebrates resurrection (return to life) of Jesus</p> <p><b>Practices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Holy Communion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Commemorating the blood &amp; body of Christ “broken” (on the cross) for sinners</li> <li>–Drinking wine (grape juice), eating bread (wafer)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>“Crossing yourself”:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Putting the sign of the cross in front of your body (forehead, chest, left shoulder, right shoulder)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Many different denominations of Christians; practices and creeds may differ</p>
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