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## CHRISTIANITY

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### Introduction:

Christianity is based on the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus Christ), believed to be the Son of God. It began about 2,000 years ago in Palestine. There are over 1 billion people follows the religion.

Christians believe that Human suffering is caused by disobedience to God's will as revealed in the law of God found in the Bible. God's justice demands that a penalty must be paid for that disobedience. That penalty was paid by God himself taking on human flesh in the person of Jesus and dying the ignominious and completely undeserved death of a criminal on a cross. By this sacrificial act, God, out of sheer grace and love made it possible for all those who believe in the saving power of this act to have credited to their account the complete and perfect obedience of Jesus so that God regards them the same as if they had never sinned.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is proof of God's power over sin, death, and proof that he can save in this way. Those who accept God's gift of salvation are empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin to live a life of increasing virtue and obedience to God and in this way show their gratitude to God for freeing them from the guilt of their sins.

### Sects and Major Scriptures:

Christianity is divided into three main sects; Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant. Among Protestants there are over 2,000 smaller sects, including Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Congregationalists, and Unitarians.

The Christian Bible which consist of the Old Testament (39 Books of Hebrew Bible) and the New Testament (27 Books). Some sects (Catholic and some Protestants) also recognize an additional 7 Books of the Apocrypha. It also contains a collection of early Christian writings proclaiming Jesus as lord and savior.

### Goals:

The goal of Christianity is eternal life with God in heaven, a perfect existence in which God's glory and bliss are shared.

### Religion Philosophy and Beliefs:

Christians believe in Ten Commandments and the majority of them adhere to the Apostles' Creed:

#### Ten Commandments from the King James Version of the Bible.

I am the Lord thy God

Thou shalt have no other gods before me

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy

Honor thy father and thy mother

Thou shalt not kill

Thou shalt not commit adultery

Thou shalt not steal

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, covet thy neighbor's wife, covet thy neighbor's manservant, and covet thy neighbor's maidservant, nor ox, nor ass

### **The Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. Who was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He appeared to his disciples, commanding them to spread the good news of salvation from sin and death, to all people. He ascended unto Heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence, He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

Man is born a sinner, and that he may know salvation only through the savior, Jesus Christ, God's only begotten son.

That Jesus Christ was born of Mary, a virgin. He was crucified on the cross then resurrected from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father as the final judge of the dead and that He will return again as prophesied.

That the soul is embodied for a single lifetime, but is immortal and accountable to God for all thoughts and actions.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

In the historical truth of the Holy Bible, that it is sacred scripture of the highest authority and the only word of God.

That upon death the soul enters Heaven, Purgatory (Roman Catholics) or Hell according to its earthly deeds and its acceptance of the Christian faith. There awaiting the Last Judgement when the dead shall rise again, the redeemed to enjoy life everlasting and the unsaved to suffer eternally.

In the intrinsic goodness of humanity and the affirmative nature of life and in the priceless value of love, charity and faith.

Satan exists and is the chief agent of evil, deception and darkness in this world.

Christianity has an unswerving belief that it is the only true religion, the only path to salvation. This engenders a missionary zeal, an urgency to evangelize around the world. Stress is placed on acceptance of Jesus as God and Savior, on good conduct, compassion, and service to humanity, faith, and preparation for the Final Judgement. Only good Christians will be saved.

A substantial differences in faith exist among the various churches. Those in the Protestant tradition insist on Scripture as the sole source of God's Revelation. The Roman Catholics give greater importance to the tradition of the church in defining the content of faith, believing it to be divinely guided in its understanding of scriptural revelation. The pope is regarded as the final authority in matters of belief

In most Christian churches, Sunday the day of Christ's resurrection is observed as a time of rest and worship. The resurrection is more particularly commemorated at Easter, a festival in the early spring. Another major Christian festival is Christmas, which commemorates the birth of Jesus.

## **Major Symbol:**

The cross is the symbol of Christianity Jesus Christ, the founder of the Christian faith died on a cross in ancient Palestine. Jesus died to save humankind. It represents the self-sacrifice and love of Christ for humanity.