



# Understanding Christianity



## KEYWORDS

**Sin** = a wrong action that breaks one of God's laws e.g. stealing or murder.

**Conscience** = a person's inner sense of right and wrong.

**Messiah** = someone sent by God that would save the people from the wrong things they had done

**Sin** = Thoughts of actions which go against God

**Forgiveness** = A choice to stop blaming someone for doing wrong

**Parable** = A story with a message, told to teach a lesson

**The Creation** = the Bible story that tells how God got created (made) the world in 6 days.

**Disciple** = a follower of Jesus

## CREATION

The Story of Creation in the Bible can be found right at the start; in **Genesis**.

It says that **God created the world** in 6 days and rested on the 7th.

It is used as an example of God's **omnipotence** (all-powerful).

Many Christians don't believe it happened **literally** (exactly) as the Bible says, but instead it is a story to help people understand what God is like, and what our place and role is in the world. These people may believe that God created the world by starting the Big Bang, and evolution.

After the creation God gives commands to the first two people, Adam and Eve. In the Bible it says "God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."



For many Christians this means that they believe that they need to protect and look after the earth for God.

**This is important to Christians because...** it teaches them that God rules over and is responsible for all of creation. That he is powerful enough to do anything.

## THE FALL



God had created a world that was perfect.

The Fall is the story of when **Adam and Eve disobeyed God** by eating the **forbidden fruit** in the **Garden of Eden**.

They had been told never to eat from that one tree, but Eve was **tempted** by the Devil, disguised as a serpent, and she then passed it on to Adam.

God asked them about it and gave them a chance to tell the truth, but they both blamed each other instead. God punished them by kicking them out of Eden, and giving punishments that would be for all humans for all time.

**This is important to Christians because...** it teaches them where evil came from, and that all our actions have consequences.

## COMMANDS FOR LIVING

After The Fall there are lots of examples in the Bible of people doing evil.

God saved a group of people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt, and told them they would be his chosen people. God called **Moses** to the top of a mountain, and gave him two tablets of stone inscribed with the **10 Commandments**; the rules of spiritual and moral living that God intended for his people.



**This is important to Christians because...** it gives them a clear guideline and rules



for living how God wants them to. It tells them how to respect God and how to respect each other.

## COMMUNION

Communion is a special ritual that Christians do to remember the Last Supper; the final meal that Jesus had with his disciples the night before he was killed.

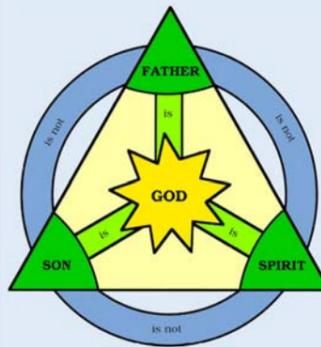
Jesus shared two signs with his followers: bread as a symbol for his body being broken, and wine as a symbol for his blood being spilled when he was crucified. He told his disciples to eat bread and drink wine to remember him.



The word Communion means, simply, 'togetherness' and this is a ritual to show the togetherness of Christians and God.

## TRINITY

Tri + unity = trinity



The Bible presents God as a Holy Trinity; one God but having three parts: the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Christians feel that belief in the Trinity helps them to understand the different ways that God has shown his presence in the world:

- **God the Father** helps to understand the power and creativity of God and his care for the world. It shows that God creates human life and then looks after it, and cares for it like a father does. Because God is the Father, Christians can turn to God as they would to a human father when they are in need.
- **God the Son** helps Christians to understand the love of God, and shows them how to live a good life. In his life and teachings, Jesus showed God's love by helping others. In his death he showed how much God loves the world.
- **The Holy Spirit** helps Christians to understand the presence of God in the world today. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is the means by which God communicates with humans, revealing God's presence in the world. Christians believe that through the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, God can strengthen and empower Christians today.

## JESUS' COMMANDS

Living a happy life is something that we all hope for. When God came to earth in the form of Jesus he wanted to teach people how to live a full & happy life. He taught his followers that happiness comes from living a life that puts other people first.

He taught people how God wanted them to live through being a role model; helping others, even those that everyone else rejected. He also told many stories and taught lessons to people about how to treat others, and the reward of heaven.

