



FOUNDATIONS 101

LESSON 1:
What Christians Believe (Part 1)

LESSON 2:
What Christians Believe (Part 2)

LESSON 3:
Common Misconceptions

LESSON 4:
What Does It Mean to Become a Christian?

LESSON ONE

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

PART 1

What Christians believe...

ABOUT GOD

There is just one.

IN THE
BEGINNING,
GOD CREATED
THE HEAVENS
AND THE EARTH.
(GENESIS 1:1, NLT)

He is the creator, sustainer and ruler of the universe.

He is infinite in all perfections.

<< HE IS INFINITELY PERFECT, LOVING, WISE, POWERFUL, PRESENT... >>

He exists in a Trinity.

<< FATHER, SON & HOLY SPIRIT >>

What Christians believe...

ABOUT PEOPLE

We were made in God's image.

We rebelled against God.

<< DISOBEDIENCE IS CALLED "SIN." >>

We need to be saved.

“ ———
| THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD HAS DONE SOMETHING |
| ABOUT THIS SEPARATION. HIS NAME IS JESUS. |
—————”

What Christians believe...

ABOUT JESUS

Jesus is God.

To His divinity, He added humanity.

<< EVEN THOUGH HUMAN, HE DID NOT SIN. >>

Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven.

He will return.

FOR THIS IS HOW
GOD LOVED THE
WORLD: HE GAVE
HIS ONE AND
ONLY SON.
(JOHN 3:16, NLT)

LESSON TWO

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

PART 2

What Christians believe...

ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is a gift of mercy and grace from God.

<< MERCY: NOT GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE; GRACE: GETTING WHAT YOU DON'T. >>

“

SALVATION IS NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO. IT IS ABOUT
WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

”

It is received through repentance and faith.

<< REPENTANCE: TURNING TOWARD GOD.

<< FAITH: TRUSTING WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

GOD SAVED YOU
BY HIS GRACE WHEN
YOU BELIEVED. AND
YOU CAN'T TAKE
CREDIT FOR THIS; IT IS
A GIFT FROM GOD.
(EPHESIANS 2:8, NLT)

What Christians believe...

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God.

<< HE IS A PERSON, NOT AN IMPERSONAL "IT" OR FORCE. >>

He makes people aware of their need for Jesus.

He is present within followers of Jesus.

He gifts us for a purpose.

FOR WE KNOW
HOW DEARLY GOD
LOVES US, BECAUSE
HE HAS GIVEN US THE
HOLY SPIRIT TO FILL
OUR HEARTS WITH
HIS LOVE.
(ROMANS 5:5, NLT)

“ A SPIRITUAL GIFT IS A SUPERNATURAL CAPACITY TO
DEVELOP AN ABILITY... THE PURPOSE OF THESE GIFTS IS
TO SERVE OTHERS. ”

What Christians believe...

ABOUT THE BIBLE

It was written by God through people.

It is God's revelation to us.

It is truthful and authoritative.

<< NO OTHER WRITING IS EQUALLY INSPIRED. >>

The Bible is relevant and guides Christians in how to live their everyday lives.

ALL SCRIPTURE IS
INSPIRED BY GOD
AND USEFUL TO TEACH
US WHAT IS TRUE AND
MAKE US REALIZE
WHAT IS WRONG IN
OUR LIVES...
(2 TIMOTHY 3:16, NLT)

“
THE BIBLE IS WHERE WE COME TO KNOW WHO GOD IS
AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US. IT'S WHERE WE LEARN
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.
”

What Christians believe...

ABOUT THE CHURCH

Relationship with Jesus implies relationship with His people.

<< CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. >>

Scripture instructs the Church in specific ways.

“
THE CHURCH IS HOW GOD REACHES THE WORLD WITH
THE MESSAGE OF JESUS.
”

The Church is led by pastors and other supportive leaders.

WHILE
KNOWLEDGE
MAKES US FEEL
IMPORTANT, IT IS
LOVE THAT
STRENGTHENS
THE CHURCH.
(1 COR. 8:1, NLT)

LESSON THREE

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS



"IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I BELIEVE AS LONG AS I'M SINCERE."

AKA salvation by sincerity. The truth: we can be sincerely wrong.



"I LEAD A GOOD LIFE."

AKA salvation by subtraction. The truth: you can't ever be good enough.



"MY MOM WAS A CHRISTIAN, SO..."

AKA salvation by heritage. The truth: each person must individually say "yes" to God.



"I WAS BAPTIZED."

AKA salvation by ritual. The truth: baptism comes after salvation.



"I GO TO CHURCH."

AKA salvation by attendance. The truth: going to church doesn't make you a Christian.



"I LIVE A LOT BETTER THAN OTHER PEOPLE."

AKA salvation by comparison. The truth: God's standard is perfection.



"THERE ARE MANY ROADS TO HEAVEN."

The truth: the world religions contradict each other in fundamental ways.

LESSON FOUR

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

OUR PURPOSE:

God made us to enjoy a personal relationship with Him.

OUR PROBLEM:

We rebelled against God, and the consequence of our sin is separation from God.

THE PLAN:

God sent Jesus to take upon Himself the consequences of our sin so that our relationship with God could be restored.

THE PATH:

God wants to lead us into a lifelong relationship with Him.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

Admit

<< COME CLEAN BEFORE GOD ABOUT YOUR SIN. >>

Believe

<< PROFESS YOUR BELIEF IN JESUS' SACRIFICE FOR YOU. >>

Accept

<< ACCEPT HIS FREE GIFT OF GRACE. >>

Ask

<< ASK JESUS TO BE YOUR SAVIOR AND LEADER. >>

IF YOU COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST...

- Your sins are forgiven once and for all.
- You are adopted into God's family.
- God gives you His Holy Spirit.

IF YOU OPENLY
DECLARE THAT JESUS IS
LORD AND BELIEVE IN
YOUR HEART THAT GOD
RAISED HIM FROM THE
DEAD, YOU WILL
BE SAVED.
(ROMANS 10:9, NLT)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Keep asking questions.

Start reading the book of Matthew.

Pray. Tell God your doubts, and ask Him to show Himself to you.

Find a way to get involved in Christian community.

Take the "After I Believe" on-demand class through the Meck Institute.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

- "Christianity for People Who Aren't Christians" by James Emery White
- "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis
- "The Reason for God" by Timothy Keller
- "The Case for Christ" or "The Case for a Creator" by Lee Strobel
- "The Ragamuffin Gospel" by Brennan Manning
- Meck Message Series: "Astrophysics for People Who Are Open to God" and "Why Believe?"

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

- "Knowing God" by J.I. Packer
- "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey
- "The Knowledge of the Holy" by A.W. Tozer
- "The Holy Spirit" by Billy Graham
- Meck Message Series: "God of the Broken" and "Jesus: Raw and Unfiltered"

NOTES:

