

Beliefs & teachings: Christianity



Key beliefs

Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion – they believe in **ONE** God.

Christians believe God is:

Omnipotent (all powerful)

Omniscient (all knowing)

Omnipresent (everywhere)

Omnibenevolent (loving)

Eternal (no beginning and no end)

Forgiving (he will forgive sins)



Theist: believes in the existence of God
Atheist: doesn't believe in the existence of God
Agnostic: unsure about the existence of God

Belief in God is a feeling that there is a greater power/presence; believers don't need evidence. They believe they have experienced God's presence.

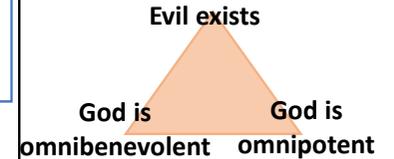
The **Trinity** is a Christian belief that there is one God in three persons. This is revealed in the Bible and taught through the Church. The Creed (prayer of belief) is an important statement of belief about the Trinity.

- "We believe in One God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth"
- "We believe in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God"
- "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life"

The prayer shows Christians believe God is loving, forgiving, all knowing and all powerful.



The problem of evil



Moral evil = suffering caused by humans

Natural evil = suffering caused by nature

Such suffering leads people to doubt God's existence. **Why would a benevolent God allow humankind to suffer?**

Christian responses:

1. Suffering is a **necessary** part of life
2. Suffering is a punishment for **sin**
3. Suffering is caused by humanity's **free will**
4. Suffering is a part of God's **plan**
5. Suffering is a **test of faith**

Christians believe they will be **judged** on their actions in this life on judgement day.

Religious Experiences

PRAYER

Communication with God.
 Christians may say set prayers like The Lord's prayer.
 Christians believe God listens to their prayers and answers them.

MIRACLE

A event that **breaks the law of science** and only God is the possible answer.
 Christians believe God has performed many miracles- parting the Red Sea, Jesus' resurrection, Jesus healed the sick and cured the blind.

NUMINOUS

A feeling of something greater than yourself
"awe and wonder"
 Christians believe this is evidence of God. People may experience this in a church, looking at nature etc.

CONVERSION

A event that causes people **to change their religion** or become more religious.
 Saul converted from Judaism to Christianity because Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus.

Creation



Science tells us that our universe is approx. 14bn years old, and our planet is approx. 4bn years old.
 An explosion (The Big Bang) led to the creation of all space, time and matter.
 Humans have evolved over time, through a process of **natural selection**. This is called **'evolution'**.

Genesis 1 & 2 says that God created the world in 6 days, and on the 7th He rested. Some Christians take this **LITERALLY** and read this story as **fact (fundamentalist)**.
 Others see the Genesis story as a **symbolic** story (**Liberal**).