

# **Course Companion for GCSE OCR (Full Course)**

Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings & Practices 2nd Edition June 2018



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# Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of GCSE OCR Religious Studies, Component Group 1. Christianity Beliefs and Teachings & Practices are covered, and questions and activities are included to test students' knowledge and ability, and to help them engage with the topics.

The information is comprehensive, and images help to illustrate concepts. Keywords and Bible quotes are included to help students to understand the material and to further their grasp of the subjects. A brief introduction to the course and answering exam questions is provided for students at the start, and answers and a mark scheme are included at the end.

### Remember!

Always check the exam board's website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

Questions are designed to be similar to those asked by OCR, however some questions may be more complex than those which would be asked in an exam, but are included to help students' learning. These include questions 5, 13, 16 and 22.

This course companion can be used in full as an alternative or complement to a textbook, as a class text or for independent learning or revision. Alternatively, teachers might use a section for a specific classroom activity or homework.

This specification covers a particularly broad range, in terms of time periods covered and different aspects of a Christian's faith and Christianity's impact on their lives. This should both inform students and develop their thinking, enabling them to approach issues from different points of view.

We have sought a balance between explaining relevant concepts in sufficient detail without oversimplification, while not going beyond GCSE level and becoming too complicated. Throughout we have tried to present all views in a neutral and informative way.

Hopefully this resource will encourage students in their learning and help to prepare them for their exams. It should take the pressure away from teachers by providing the bulk of the content which they want to teach to their class.

June 2017

### **Endorsement update, December 2017**

- Improved definition for 'profane'.
- Improved minor grammar points throughout.
- Amended some exam questions to better match the depth required for the exam.
- Added clarification that the mark schemes provided are simplified version of OCR's.

# **Free Updates!**

Register your email address to receive any future free updates\* made to this resource or other Religious Studies resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

\* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

Go to zzed.uk/freeupdates

# Introduction to the Course and How to Questions

This course aims to cover many aspects of Christianity and to assess your under be aware that Christianity is one of many different beliefs and traditions in Green Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Christianity is currently the land is closely linked with the culture.

The range of material covers several subject areas: what Christians believe, and what take part in, and how the Church as a whole operates. There will be reference to of Christianity to Christians; the influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on Chronits of view from within Christianity. These are reinforced to the This course are reinforced to the This course are reinforced.

This course companion is designed to equip working the information you need knowledge and ability to answer relate of the course of the questions and exam-style, but those which are snown answered in particular ways.

The exam boas will as o give quick facts and statements, as well as asking you and 'discuss' rike and 'outline'. They will also ask you to 'explain' and 'discuss' rike and 'outline'. They will also ask you to 'explain' and 'discuss' rike and 'outline'. When answering all questions it is important to try to use technical terms where possible, and to write well, using both a style that is easy to follow and correct spelling and grammar. More or less writing will be required, depending on the number of marks. Try to spend as little time as possible on the shorter questions to allow yourself more time for the longer ones.

There will be two parts, each including three 3-mark questions, one 6-mark question, and one 15-mark question. These questions

could be on any material which you have learnt. Three extra marks are given for spelling,

punctuation and grammar

on the first 15-mark question. This also goes for the other religion you study.

Hopefully, this resource will be interesting and informative, and help you to achieve good results. The **3-mark questions** have varied formats. You could be asked to describe something, such as a term; to outline a belief/teaching; to state or name three things; or to give three reasons for something. You might be asked what something is how something happened, or why something is the case / is important.

Do not let the different wording throw you off – essentially the are two formats. In one, you will be asked to give three things which case you can be brief about each point – you will get 1 mark for each of the three things. In the other, you will be ask for one thing – therefore you need to go into some more detainake sure that you make at least three points or examples abothe one thing to get three mar!

The **6-mark que** so to explain something – often the impossomething something a pelief or practice. However, it could also ask you reason different views, or how/why something is done. For these mass snow both knowledge and understanding, and analysis and evaluation and evaluation. You may get a making a point, developing it, giving an example, or making some analysis.

The **15-mark question** is the longest. You will need to discuss a statement. This means **for** and **against** the statement (so agreeing with it, and also suggesting an alternative good reasons for all the points you make and link them together well. You should come convincing side of the argument (based on the arguments you have given!) and saying need to refer to sources of wisdom and authority, such as the Bible or church teaching refer to similar and different views within Christianity and analyse and evaluate the

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# **Beliefs and Teachin**

A key part of any religion is its beliefs and teachings. These are particularly especially mainstream branches, compared to many other world religions Buddhism) which can be seen to be more practice-focused. Teachings can the **Bible**, **Old Testament** and **New Testament**; from the Church, often extheologians and philosophers who have sought to answer difficult questice. Christians, and different Church **denominations**, have different beliefs, dependently and on which teachings they accept.

# **Keywords:**

- ♦ **Bible** the Christian Scriptures and deap of the Old and New Testaments
- ◆ creed a statement of land f
- denomination is just a figure of the denomination of the denomin
- New 12 ne 12 section of the Bible concerning the life of Jesus and his
- Old 1 ent section of the Bible concerning the time before the birth
- theologian someone who studies religion and God

# Nature of God

Christians have many different beliefs about the nature of God – what God basis in the Bible, and also in Christian tradition. Not all beliefs fit neatly we have reasons for believing that God has characteristics which might sometime each other.

### **Keywords:**

- apostles Jesus' disciples who had had an encounter with him after his result
   Christianity
- ♦ **Book of Job** a book in the Bible about one man's suffering
- disciples followers, here of Jesus, often referring to his closest twelve male
- Evangelical a type of Protestant (usually), often concerned with being spile
- faith here, belief in God and trust in him
- free will the ability to choose what to do
- idolatry worshipping something other than God, which is forbidden in Cl
- just fair, right and good
- ♦ law (Jewish) what the Jews followed in order \*\*\* as God. Many Christ this by dying and rising, so that Christian control in a followit anymore
- ♦ miracle in Christianity, something was prappears to be done by God and see
- parables stories with a line meaning, for the purpose of teaching
- prayer —complete. Sin with God
- prop இது நட்டி who speak to God and/or can predict the future
- salva being saved, having been saved; in Christianity, Jesus brought
- sin something that separates people from God, going against God's will
- ◆ **Ten Commandments** ten important rules given to the prophet Moses by
- ◆ **Trinity** the concept that God is one being, but three persons
- vision a type of experience where God, or a messenger of God or sign from

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## Meaning of Key Terms

Christians believe that God is:

### **♦** Benevolent

Christians believe that God is loving (benevolent). Many believe that he is all that his love is without limits. God's love is referred to throughout the Bible guides and cares for the Jewish people, and helps them in times of trouble. further in the **New Testament** – Christians believe that God sent his son, Jest believe that this allowed humans to be **saved** from **sin**, and to have a change God and eternal life. They feel that this is the ultimate expression of love –

'For God so loved the world that he of his aly Son, so that everyone who perish but may have eternal ''' for God did not send the Son into the but in order that the year of saved through him.' (John 3:16–17 NR)

'No ( 17 granter love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

### **♦** Omniscient

Many Christians believe that God is all-knowing (omniscient). Most feel the is to know about the world, and also knows everyone's thoughts and feeling that God knows the future. Some feel that he knows exactly what will hap which people will make, and the time at which they will make them. Others knowledge of what will happen, but he does not know in advance every demake, or everything which will happen to someone. God's knowledge is dewhen he knows where Jonah has run away to (Jonah 1), and when Jesus kree (e.g. Matthew 9:3–5). God shows his knowledge in the **Book of Job**, where asks Job if he has knowledge of many ways of the world; indicating that Gowhich humans do not (Job 38–42). Jesus also taught about God's knowledge number of hairs on someone's head, and of all that is hidden (Matthew 10).

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...' (Jeremiah 1:5 NRSV)

'... God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.' (1 John 3:20 N

## **♦** Omnipotent

Christians all believe that God is powerful, and many that he is all-powerful (omnipotent). Most be levit fact this power is physical and spiritual entire strength and help them to make lecistic he Bible demonstrates God's power; it that he sent plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7–12); helped that he sent plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7–12); helped that he sent plagues on Egypt (in several books of the Old Testament); raised Jesus from the dead (see the end of the Gospels); and showed his power in many other ways. Those Christians who knew Jesus believed that they experienced God's power first hand, and those who feel that they have experienced God's power. Many Christians feel that



Artist's im

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God is omnipotent because they cannot imagine how much power it must universe – they can see the extent of God's creation in nature.

'It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his understanding stretched out the heavens.' (Jeremiah 10:12 NRSV)

'But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for Go (Matthew 19:26 NRSV)

# **♦** A judge

Christians believe that God judges all humans – he evalutes their behaviour. God is seen to be **just** – he will do wint a fair and right, and this involves rewarding and punish. Many Christians feel that ultimate judgement will compare the send of their lives and/or at the end of time. They have an a God will judge and decide who is good and bad – they have and the good and punish the bad. Jesus taught that God is serned with both thoughts and actions, and that he will judge people at the end of time based on whether or not they help oth of the sheep and the goats – Matthew 25:31–46 in the section on *Eschatolo* Jesus also teaches that those who do not believe in him will be judged hars

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I sallooks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his (Matthew 5:27–28 NRSV)

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate shepherd separates the sheep [good people] from the goats [bad people]...

'Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.' (John 3)

# **♦** Eternal

Christians believe that God is eternal – that he has always existed and always very different from humans – he has not been created by someone else, and to death.

'Before the mountains were brought forth, or every hand formed the earth everlasting to everlasting you are God.' (Psa in Chin RSV)

### **♦** Transcendent

Many Christians be and the particle of time and the particle of the Bible discontinuous God as transcendent, and Christians can understand that he cannot be contained within it. Similarly, if God knows what is going on the future, he is not contained within time.

'Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down (Psalm 113:5–6 NRSV)

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### **♦** Immanent

Many Christians believe that God is immanent; active in the world, and know that they have experienced **visions** and/or miracles, or that their **prayers** have happened, they would require God to be active in the world – God wo in the world to interact with people in the Old Testament, and to come to

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel", which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23 NRSV)



## ◆ Personal

Most Christians believe that God is a second al God, who wants to have a relationship with hur a it is triey believe he has spoken to humans through the second in the Bible) and sent his son Jesus that he and humans could have a complete reasonship. God has made himself known, for example through visions and Jesus, and through other means such as scripture and prayer.



Jesus

"But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark and your sons' wives with you." (Genesis 6:18 NRSV)

'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his gloonly son, full of grace and truth.' (John 1:14 NRSV)

# **♦** Forgiving

Christians believe that God is forgiving, and that Jesus died for the forgive that if they repent of their sins then God will accept their faults and will not the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11–32 teaches that God is like a loving father, turns away from their sin and returns to him. Christians may also believe to others, God will not forgive them, as Jesus taught this when he taught his (Matthew 6:9–15). (This may motivate them to forgive, as they do not want

'But while he was still far off, his father saw him now s filled with compassaround him and kissed him.' (Luke 15:20 N SV

'And forgive us our debts, and it is not forgive for five forgive you; but if you do not forget forgive to a spasses.' (Matthew 6:12, 14–15 NRSV)

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# Christianity is:

## **♦** Monotheistic

This means that Christians believe in one God. Christians do not believe in **idols**. This is forbidden in the Old Testament in the first two of the Ten Corules which many Christians try to follow.

'I am the LORD your God... you shall have no other gods before me. You shall idol... You shall not bow down to them or worship them...' (Exodus 20:2–5)

## Significance of these Characteristics

The belief that God has these characteristics is very significant for Christian

God being **benevolent** and **forgiving** is significent because Christians feel They can put **faith** in him that he will or next them, and will not punish the wrong and try to do betto the significant be comforting. Many Christians feel lives and liberates in a pelieving that God is loving and forgiving also in and forgiving s, to help them when they are in difficulty and let go of grant of the significant states.

God's **omniscience**, **omnipotence** and **eternity** are significant to Christian power. They may be in awe of him. It means that Christians feel that they beyond human limitations. They are also likely to be grateful to God for creating the control of the control

It is significant for Christians that God is a **judge** because this means that C their behaviour – just because God is loving does not mean that anything to live good lives so that God will not judge them harshly.

**Transcendence** is a significant characteristic because it reminds Christians them. **Immanence** is an important characteristic because it reminds Christians their lives. There are several approaches to the apparent contradiction between a God who is both immanent and transcendent. Most Christians believe that God is a **Trinity** (three persons), and the Catholic Church teaches that God the Father is transcendent, while God the Son and God the Spirit are immanent. This is partly due to the teaching of St Paul. However some other Christians feel that all persons of God are, somehow, able to be outside of time and space, but be active in the world at the same time – because they believe that as God is omnipotent, he would not be limited in any way.

'Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God to odd? Who can hide in I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not for the carnot earth? says the LORD.

God being **personal** is it is in the control of the

**Monotheism** is very significant for Christians, because it affects their worshelieve that they should focus on God and should not place too high an inforworship another person or object, because this comes between them are significant to Christianity because it differs from the religion practised through Testament – there is evidence that the Jewish people in much of the Old Tethey worshipped their God, but believed in the existence of other gods, and them. Christianity teaches strongly (as does modern-day Judaism) that no

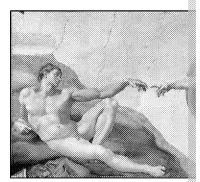
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## Common and Divergent Emphases on these Characteristics by Differ

All Christians believe that God is **benevolent** and **forgiving**, and that God conservative Christians tend to emphasise obedience to exact teachings of strict master (though they still see him as loving). Conservative Christians **denominations**, but there are many conservative Catholics and Orthodox **evangelical** Christians. More liberal Christians tend to emphasise God's low his judgement. Protestant churches such as the Methodist Church and the Quakers and Pentecostal Christians emphasise God as **personal**, because their lives and try to be guided by God directly. While (most) Christians ferelationship with God and accept his **immanence**, churches such as the Catare more likely to emphasise God's **transcendence**. The ifference between inability to fully know God as well as they emphasise mystery of God.

Calvinists emphasise God's nin sance and omniscience has they believe that God has a schalen who will be saved (so he know hat will happen to humans, and as he created them, he set this in motion). Some Christians who believe in complete free will, where humans always have the option to choose, or reject, salvation, will emphasise God's omniscience less, as his omniscience can be taken to contradict real free will (if God knows what



Michelangelo's *Creation of* creating

you will do before you choose it, did you really choose it?). Christians who do not see God as omnipotent, but rather see him as having spiritual power their hearts and minds) but not complete physical power.

Often these different interpretations are based on different interpretations passages. Those Christians who focus on God as benevolent, forgiving, impemphasise the person of Jesus, immanent in the world and providing a person of level that his main teachings are on love and forgiveness. They will also power of love rather than his physical power.

Christians who emphasise God's transcendence, knowledge, physical power judge often place greater importance on the details of the **Old Testament** God's physical power, his awesomeness, and his judge, and are clearly demanded to take Jesus' teachings about judgement vary are susly.

All Christians believe in one (1, b) twille mainstream Christians believe in below, some (Unitation 5.) Elieve that this is not really believing in one God is God, where Christians do. This is because they do not believe that in this way, wheel that it has been interpreted inaccurately (or that some

## **Quick Questions**

- 1) What does God being omnipotent mean?
- 2) Why is the Christian God seen as a judge?

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# Concept of God as a Trinity of F

The **Trinity** is a concept within Christianity which refers to the belief that the Christian God is both *one* being and *three* persons at the same time. The three persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. However, there is unity within God – there are not three separate gods. This seems rather confusing, and it has caused much controversy and debate within Christianity. Not all Christians believe in the Trinity, but most do.

## **Importa**

The persons of God are usual Christians may believe that God God is not gendered, but the attributed to him by a male-leadenesis 1:27 says that both made in God's image, implying that God's image, imag

## **Keywords:**

- Asce v on Jesus was raised up into heaven after his resurrection
- **bapti** ere, immersion in water to symbolise spiritual cleansing
- ◆ divine godly, above humanity
- gospel means 'good news'; the four books at the start of the New Testam
- ministry here, Jesus' work of teaching and healing
- Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples after Jesus' as
- resurrection coming back to life after dying; Christians believe Jesus was

# The Trinity and the Relationship between the Father, Son and Holy S

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are seen as one being, but three persons. As such, they may share knowledge, but also interact with each other.

There is biblical support for different persons of God the Trinity.

- Genesis, the first book of the Bible, refers to both 'God' and 'the spirit of God' (Genesis 1:1–2 NRSV).
- ◆ In the New Testament Jesus addresses the creator God, who was worshipped by the Jews, as 'Father' (e.g. Matthew 5:16 NRSV).
- Jesus was referred to in the **Gospels** as the 'Son of God' (e.g. Mark 1:1 and when early Christians worshipped him as God they distinguished this way.
- At **Pentecost**, the early **disciples** received the Holy pirit, sent by Jesus descended on them like flames (Acts 2). The Holy Spirit is thought to

### The Father

God the Father is believe to be creator of the world, and to have sent humanity. It is to because he decided to create humanity and also Christians they would not be here, and would not have a hope of his powerful, and the God who was in contact with the Jewish people in the Operfect, and an example for Christians.

'In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God (Or: while swept over the face of the waters.' (Genesis 1:1–2 NRSV)

'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.' (Matthew 5:48 NI

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## The Son

Jesus is believed to be the Son of God (and the same as God). He is believe Creation, and to have come to Earth to save humanity. He is significant for believe that it is through him that they have been saved and can have a release heaven after death.

'Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Market answered)

# **The Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is often seen to be the Person of God who communicates whe has spoken through **prophets**, and, as promised to sus, was sent to this event is known and celebrated as **Penterosi** of that God would be prophets as they can continually experis

'Divice gues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on them willed with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, them ability.' (Acts 2:3-4 NRSV)

## Activity

Find a Bible quote (not one given) which refers to one or more of the Hint: try one of the Gospels, or Paul's letters.

# All the Persons - Together

One good example in the Bible where all the different Persons of God are p (see Matthew 3:13–17). Jesus begins his **ministry** by being baptised, and G approval of Jesus as the Holy Spirit descends to be with Jesus.

'And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, such were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I are (Matthew 13:16–17 NRSV)

# **Authority Structure**

Some Christians believe that there is an authority structure within the **Trin** of the Son and Spirit (and some also believe that the Son has power over the son and Spirit (and some also believe that the Son has power over the son and Spirit (and some also believe that the Son has power over the son has power over the son and Spirit (and some also believe that the Son has power over the s

Passages such as Philippians 2:5–8 cares terpreted in different ways in the passage describes Jesus as care at with a od (the Father), however, it also should be a first of an imply that the Father is in charge of the So

'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he had obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.' (Philippians 2:5–8 Na

There are also verses where Jesus talks about asking the Father to send, or Spirit. These could be interpreted to mean that the Father (and Son) have

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'And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be will Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.' (John 14:16–17 NRS)

'And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in clothed with power from on high.' (Luke 24:49 NRSV)

## Issues Related to the Nature of God and Different Attitudes to God a

The **Trinity** raises issues for the nature of God – can three persons be God really three persons?

# The Trinity as Expressed in the Angle Creed

The Apostles' **Creed** is an each concerneed which is attributed to some of this may be myth) It is a roo have existed since at least the fourth cent that the vertical solution of the several hundred years later. It gives God the Factorian being **divine**. This raises questions about whether early Christians, such as that Jesus was God.

# The Trinity as Expressed in the Nicene Creed

Because Christians in the early Church were not sure exactly how to describe the Trinity, there were different opinions. One priest called Arius, for example, did not think that Jesus was God. However, a bishop called Athanasius argued that he was. Different people and groups had varying ideas. The Emperor Constantine was fed up with the disputes and called a Church council (a meeting of Christian figures of authority) in 325 CE to decide the matter – this was the first Council of Nicaea (named after the place where it was held). The Nicene Creed was not actually completed until the first Council of Constantinople in 381 CE, but by then it was decided that God was one substance, one being, but that he contained three different Persons – this granted Jesus full divine status. Many Christians accept these teachings today and believe that Jesus was fully Go and fully human – this will be dealt with further in the section on *Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension*.

The Creed mainly contains what Christians believe about the three Persons of the Trinity, as well as some statements about Jawait, and other Christian beliefs about the Church and life of the leath. You will be familiar with some of these from the section by ve.

About God his the so, the Nicene Creed states that:

- God is
- God the ather made the world and everything else.
- Jesus is also God, and everything was created by him / with his help, a
- Jesus came to Earth as a human, born of the Holy Spirit and his mother
- Jesus died, rose, and ascended to heaven.
- Jesus will come at the end of time to judge humanity (those alive and
- The Holy Spirit gives life and has influenced prophets.



<sup>1</sup> http://anglicansonline.org/basics/nicene.html

The Emperor Charlemagne, alive in the eighth and ninth centuries, made an addition to the Nicene Creed, based on **theology** from St Augustine. Previously, the Creed had claimed that the Holy Spirit 'proceeds from the Father', but this was changed to 'the Father and the Son'. The Orthodox Church disagreed with this alteration, because they saw no reason for it, and this is one of the reasons for their split from the Catholic Church.

St. Augus theologia and fifth ce the middle and wro were very doctrine Christian

The Creed says different things about the different Persons of the Trinity, be God. The Creed shows that the Trinity has been an important aspect of Christianice of the Trinity, and the way the Trivial is a pressed in the Nicerola.

- Christians believe that God was decisions and that his plan has a (indicated by the bolism of less has existed since creation and that the throughout is leading foretelling Jesus).
- Christia e the different Persons of God in different ways they pe

### The Oneness of God

As stated above, Christians believe in one God, not three gods. So God's recover, believing in the Trinity raises issues for this. The **Old Testament** one, and believing that he is three persons seems to go against this. Other as Judaism and Islam believe in one God and reject the idea of any different Christians who worship the Trinity have faced accusations of **idolatry** – wor and going against the **Ten Commandments**. It can be seen that belief in teachings of the Bible.

'Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.' (Deuteronomy 6:4 N

However, Christians argue that they *do* believe in one God, and that this is Testament – they may argue that the Trinity is a mystery, and while it may one being in three persons, Christians accept this on **faith** – anything is posthere are references in the Old Testament which can be taken to imply that There are also references to God's Spirit (e.g. in Genesis 1), so belief in the support from Old Testament passages.

'Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image according to our like

'Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has beginned alke one of us, knowing (Genesis 3:22 NRSV)

Those Christian way to not believe in the Trinity, Jews, and scholars have alternative alternative is for such passages. It could be that God is speaking to speaks about himself in a plural way (like using the royal 'we'); or that the passages who wrote them – that there were multiple gods. Jews would also a Spirit etc. do not refer to a different person of God, in the same way that if you would not be referring to another person.

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Unitarian Christians, such as Christadelphians, do not accept belief in the Triperson that mainstream Christians would refer to as the Father). They believely Spirit are not references to a different person, but to the same God. They be save humanity, but that he was human. However, as Jesus did not **sin**, he was

Christadelphians have a reasonable basis for interpreting from the Bible that actually God. Other than John 1 (which was arguably added to John's Gospauthors), the **Gospels** do not refer to Jesus as God/divine, but as God's Sonthing. There are also occasions where Jesus seems to separate himself from God's (the Father's) knowledge, or appears to lack God's power. Many Chibuman body gave him limitations / Jesus chose to limit his power / God the God the Son / God the father may even have knowledge which God the Sol Bible is open to interpretation in this way.

'Simon Peter answers are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." As "Blessed re you are son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed heave the largew 16:16–17 NRSV)

'Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alo

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, reference (Matthew 24:36 NRSV)

'Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there hands on a few sick people and cured them.' (Mark 6:4–5 NRSV)

While the Trinity does raise some issues for belief in God as one, it also has was truly God, then humans have experienced God and his nature directly, a from God. This gives Christians confidence that they know God, as they can

## **Transcendence and Immanence**

As seen in the section on the *Nature of God*, belief in the Trinity can actual God being both **transcendent** and **immanent** – if different persons of the characteristics.

## Influence Today

- Most Christians believe in the **Trinity**.
- Some Churches use **creeds**, such as the Nicene Creed, which express their beliefs about the Trinity, in worship.
- Christians celebrate Trinity Sunday, the birth of Jecal at Christmas, his
  death and resurrection at Easter, and the and the Holy Spirit
  at Pentecost.
- Christians **pray** to Jesus as Let Cod the Father, and may pray to God the Father 'in 'a Louise'.
- Blessing in waptisms are, given 'in the name of the Father, the School the Holy Spirit'.
- Christia may feel that they experience the Holy Spirit acting in their lives, and Pentecostal Christians put particular importance on the role.

# **Quick Questions**

3) Give three Christian beliefs about the Trinity.

# 



# Biblical Accounts of Creati

Christianity, like many religions and world views, has a **Creation** story to e world; the creation of the universe and humanity. Christians believe that @ entrusted it to humans. There are several different interpretations of the @ everyone believes the same thing about it.

## **Keywords:**

- **Creation** the account of how the world and universe were made
- doctrine set teaching or belief
- dominion control over something
- fundamentalist in Christianity, someone visconosithat certain beliefs are Bible is true, and literally believes in norms as Jesus' miracles
- **grace** what God grants to an armich saves them
- literal something : . . . a. ". actual
- metarica roaming which is symbolic original humans inherit because of the Fall
- perso sin sins committed by an individual
- pre-existence to exist/be before something, for example before being both before Creation
- **reason** a rational capacity for understanding and making decisions
- **stewardship** a state of managing resources in a responsible way
- **symbolic** something which represents something else
- Word of God Jesus; through which God's power is expressed, and his tea

# Synopsis of Biblical Accounts of Creation, Including the Role of the

The first book of the Bible, Genesis, gives two different accounts of **Creatic** creator is also affirmed in **creeds** such as the Apostles' Creed and the Nice

### Taking it further...

Why don't you read Genesis 1–3 and John 1:1–18 to get a better idea of

### Genesis 1 and the start of Genesis 2:

Before the creation of the world, there was nothing. But God's Spirit move began to come into being. This shows that the Spirit was present at Creat part. Over a period of six days God created light; the water and the sky; la and stars; fish and birds; animals and humans – in God's image. God gives after, is pleased with his creation and rests on the service day.

'In the beginning when God create it is avens and the earth, the earth w and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God (Or: while swept over the face of the maters.' (Genesis 1:1-2 NRSV)

'Ther Land Let there be light"; and there was light.' (Genesis 1:3 NRS)

'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created the created them.' (Genesis 1:27 NRSV)

## Genesis 2:

This differs to Genesis 1. There is more detail, and some things even happ created before animals in this account. Furthermore, the creation of woma she is created after the animals, out of one of man's ribs. Man is command tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

# 



### Genesis 3:

The serpent tempts the woman to eat the forbidden fruit. She protests that to eat, and shares it with the man. They lose some sense of innocence, which that they are naked and hiding from God. God discovers that they have eat casts them out of the Garden of Eden.

**Note:** Christianity shares the Creation account given in Genesis with Judais everything in the same way as Christians.

### John 1: 1-18:

God's **Word** is with God at Creation, and God creates through him. It then unrecognised, but grants humans God's **grace** This, assage supports Chriwas embodied in the person of Jesus – the God's research Son pre-existed Jesus was God. It claims that the Wood, the was present at Creation, so existed is important in Creation and the control levels – he helped to create the physical the new because he will a manner who want a relationship with God. Jesus is because he will god's teaching (his word) to Earth – this is significant came from God, then it should be followed.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without being... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen father's only son, full of grace and truth.' (John 1:1–3, 14 NRSV)

The accounts mention God (the Father), the Word (Jesus) and the Holy Spithe **Trinity** in the Bible.

Some main points from these narratives which you should know for the example.

- God the Father is the Creator. He creates everything, and without him
- God the Spirit is the agent of God at creation.
- The Word of God is God.
- The Word was present before creation.
- The Word played a part in creation the world was created through h
- ◆ Jesus is the Word. Therefore the person of Jesus **pre-existed** his life **⊘**



The world, which Christians believe was created by God.

# Issues Raised in Genesis for Differ Literal Interprof. Jons and Metaph

Diffe en Chicians interpret the **Cre**The views are not necessarily group
different Catholics have different views.

Some believe that it is literally transverid within seven days, and that people called Adam and Eve. Challeterally are often called fundamentalist originated to desthat certain beliefs, e.g. that the Boor necessary, for Christianity).

# 



Some believe that the Creation story is **metaphorical**; that God may be and for starting the process of evolution, and that the Bible is not necessary the Note: this does not mean that they see the Bible as untrue, but rather

**Important!** A literal interpretation of Genesis raises the issue that it may Christians to trust scientific findings which suggest that the world developeriod, and that humans evolved.

However, it may also make Christians feel special, as humans are, on this imbeings made in God's image, not evolved from a common ancestor with maccount of Creation can also place emphasis on Cod's power – if he was alweek. Interestingly, literal interpretations are not coff a modern phenomentwo centuries and becoming pont in around 100 years ago), rather than a science.

A more multiple in understanding will not conflict with Christians learning interpretation the world, and may help in reconciling their religious and they believe that God created everything, but through scientific methods.

**Important!** Understanding the story of creation metaphorically raises the issue that Christians have to justify why they believe some parts of the Bible literally (such as God sending Jesus), and not others. Unless they can do this well, they run the risk of undermining the authority of the Bible.



Both those who take the creation account literally and metaphorically believe power in creating the universe in the world around them.

'Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, in been understood and seen through the things he has made.' (Romans 1:20 N

# The Fall in the Genesis Narrative

One interpretation of creation leads to the **doctrine** of the **Fall**; largely assorthis expresses that it was through humans taking and eating the forbidden **grace** (see Genesis 3). Humans cannot redeem the set of the second s

The **doctrine** of the **Fall** has varied im a Acadstine felt that fallenness a of Adam and Eve were passed and a safe sex — this is called **original sin**. I idea they may view sex academically, and women may be seen as inferior to Adam. Sorganically seel a greater need for a **saviour**, Jesus, because the

Christians woo not agree with St. Augustine are less likely to see sex or women negatively. For example, many see women as equal to men because Genesis 1:27 says that both men and women were created in the image of God. While such Christians feel they need God to save them, they may be more positive about the human condition – St. Thomas Aquinas thought humans still had their **reason** as a moral compass. Some Christians only believe in **personal sin**; disobedience committed individually, so do not feel the added weight of original sin. Some

St. Aq theolo thirte ethics a for the

# 



Christians view the Creation story positively; if humans were once so close to draw closer to him again if Christians try to follow his teachings and try not

The doctrine of the Fall is emphasised in the Catholic Church and older brain as Calvinism and Lutheranism, and is less accepted in many modern Protest

## Role and Purpose of Human Beings

Creation is important for many Christians because they believe that God gathey rule it, or have **dominion** over it.

'God blessed them, and God said to them, "...subdue [the Earth]; and have the sea and over the birds of the air and over every '..., thing that moves God said, "See, I have given you every plan' yat ding seed that is upon the every tree with seed in its fruit; you '...' have them for food."' (Genesis 1:28)

Some Christians boling by smeans that the world is theirs, to exploit for the whatever the anguard control animals.

However, many Christians believe that dominion also comes with great res God has made them **stewards** of his creation; people who manage it and creation reminds them that the world is God's and they should care for it.

'Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.'

In Genesis 1:28, God also commands humanity to reproduce. Many Christians, Anglicans, and other Protestant denominations such as Method important, but do not believe that all couples need to have children, let all as more of a command to the human race in general, or as a gift – God is a Earth. However, the Catholic Church places great emphasis on this verse. Touches should try to have children (if they are physically able to conceive) be open to the possibility of new life, so that people are not stopping them God wants this for them.

'God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill (Genesis 1:28 NRSV)

# **Quick Questions**

- 4) Give **three** purposes of humanity a Fell was by Christians.
- 5) Outline how creating and yie understood metaphorically.



# 



# The Problem of Evil and Suffering and Righteous God

## **Keywords:**

- baptism a sacrament which involves being anointed with, or immersed in in Jesus
- evil often refers to moral badness and choosing to do the 'wrong' thing,
   which cause suffering
- moral evil something caused by a human being's wilfal action, like murd
- natural evil something caused by events in the and, like a tsunami, or d
- predestination the idea that God has he er who will be saved in advance
- righteous good, fair and instant
- suffering experienci in

# Concept o

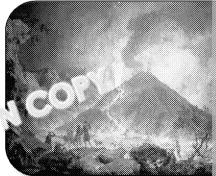
Good as a concept is so universally understood, that it is hard to define. It and/or desired. It may refer to a preferable version of something e.g. good some reason) than bad ones. Good may be seen as the opposite of **evil**. good is often associated with God and God's will. Genesis 1 talks about Gosonot only is God good, but what he makes is also good. Christians will subeing created in God's image, by following God.

'God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.' (Ger

# Concept of Evil - Types and Causes

**Evil** is generally considered to be that which is bad and/or wrong. There a about evil. Some people see it as a force which opposes good, while other often when people speak about evil, they will be talking about an action when a thought which someone had. However, sometimes 'evil' can refer to so had bad consequences.

Natural evil is something, e.g. a natural event which is not the fault of any human, which causes suffering (pain), such as a natural disaster or disease. Examples include tsunamis, volcanoes, earthquakes, HIV/AIDS and cancer. Causes include natural consisting organisms such as virus and organisms



Erupting volcanoes ca

**Moral evil** is something which a human being chooses to do, which causes include killing someone, theft and exploitation of others. The cause of morchoosing to act evilly. They may do this due to any number of reasons, such or anger.

It is important to separate these two types of evil for discussing the proble solutions to it.

# 



## The Problem of the Existence of Evil and Suffering

As seen in the section on the *Nature of God*, Christians believe that God is that he is all-powerful, or **omnipotent**. This is particularly shown in his **cressalvation** of humanity. Someone who is all-powerful can, theoretically, do

'For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mi (Deuteronomy 10:17 NRSV)

Christians also believe that God is loving, or **benevolent**, and many believe omnibenevolent. He protected and guided the Jewish people in the **Old T**eto save humanity from **sin**.

'God's love was revealed ar (ir als way: God sent his only Son into live through him.' (1 J ) (1 SV)

Christians a link that God is **righteous**; that he is fair, **just** and good. Them when he has promised to care for them – a fair God will keep his protection that he is fair in rewarding the good and punishing the bad.

'The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made his acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to a steadfast love.' (Psalm 103:6–8 NRSV)

The problem of **evil** and **suffering** is one issue which has faced Christians posed as a question:

'If God is omnipotent, benevolent and righteous, then why does he allow

If he is omnipotent, then he could stop evil and suffering. Human conception imply that someone who loves someone else does not want any harm to coloring, he should not want humans to come to harm. If God is righteous, he people or allow good people to suffer.

The fact that there is evil and suffering in the world raises questions about

- Can he stop evil and suffering?
- Does he care that humans suffer?
- Has he unfairly abandoned humans?
- Or is there some other explanation that alove there to be an omnipole God, while there is evil and suffacility the world?

# How the Problem Magacauss pelievers to Question Their Faith or the

- If God The ni, stent, benevolent and righteous, it does not make sensuffering allow the innocent to suffer when the wicked often succession.
- If God is not omnipotent, benevolent and righteous, this seems to understand on belief in a loving God, holds that God was powerful enough defeat death, and is fair and good.

Some believers wonder why they should trust in a God who allows bad this so they question their **faith** and whether they should keep believing. Some Christianity, because its portrayal of God is (in their opinion) not accurate, a Christian faith.

# 



Some believers question whether they should believe in the existence of God would be omnipotent, benevolent and righteous, but clearly is not – so

# Explanations and Solutions Offered to the Problem of the Existence

Christians explain the existence of **evil** and **suffering** in many different way

The Fall of (Hu)mankind as the Result of Free Will and the Concept of Because Genesis 1 teaches that when God made the world, everything was this point, there was no evil in the world. However, most Christians do accorded now.

Takın i türther...

Read Genesis 3:1–19 to we understand ideas of the Fall and

If evil is take by the ground which opposes God, many feel that the first in the first huld disobeyed God and ate fruit which was forbidden to them *Biblical Accounts of Creation*, some Christians, such as St Augustine, believe

Regardless of whether Christians agree with the extent to which other humans are affected by Adam and Eve's actions, this does provide an example of **moral evil**, and shows an explanation for it. Adam and Eve have **free will** – this means that they can choose to disobey God and do evil. If all humans have this ability, then this is why moral evil exists.

'The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"... when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.' (Genesis 3:2-3, 6 NRSV)

Some Christians argue that it is more **benevolent** for God to have allowed decisions and to have free will – otherwise humans would merely be pupped be living. In order to have genuine choice, the consequence is that some public hurt others. This is one explanation for which hurt others.

### Pause for thought:

You can see wheth the ree will solution by asking yourself were offere the plug into a miraculous machine and experience a virthappy. But of your 'friends' in the machine would be real and none of the be real ellow, you could remain in real life, with struggles and hardships, but own choices, work hard for your own goals, and trust your friends. Many people are convinced they would not want to live a 'fake' life. (This scenario is based on Machine, created by the philosopher Robert Nozick

# 



Christians who do accept the doctrine of the Fall also accept the concept of Adam and Eve sinned, this changed the nature of humanity. This fallenness sex, and is part of the human condition, so all humans have original sin. The humans from God leads to **moral evil**. This explains why humans *want* to their nature is damaged, and they are no longer perfectly reflecting God's and they are not the longer perfectly reflecting God's and they are not the longer perfectly reflecting God's and they

Original sin can also be thought to have led to God instituting **natural evi** that humans have sinned he curses them – he condemns woman to pain that he would have to work hard for food. It can also be interpreted that to (often natural) evil of death:

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase on anges in childbearing; i

As seen about the Catholic Church promotes belief in original sin more the reason that the Catholic Church promotes infant **baptism** is the belief that forgiven their original sin (you will read more about baptism in the section

**Note:** In Genesis woman/Eve is tempted to eat the forbidden fruit by the soften associated with Satan/the Devil. Therefore, some Christians might at the Devil because he tempted humans.

Furthermore, the tree from which Adam and Eve ate the fruit is referred to of good and evil' (Genesis 2:17 NRSV), and this has different interpretations that Adam and Eve would know the difference between good and evil which world? Did God punish them with knowledge of good and evil for disobey influence the start of evil so that there would be both good and evil to expe

## Other Solutions to the Problem of the Existence of Evil and Suffering

- Most Christians would not deny that God is loving but some Christians deny that God is omnipotent. Maybe there are limits to his power. Some believe that he chooses to limit his power. Others say that there are things which are not possible, however powerful you are. Sometimes people ask if it is possible for an all-powerful being to create something so heavy that they could not lift it, or to create a being more intelligent than the satisfactory solution. This could theoretical and satisfactory solution. This could theoretical and satisfactory if the world too it might be impossible and not have bacteria and viruses which support the world illness, and which did not have earthquakes and volcanoes which cause destruction.
  - → Most Christians do not accept that this is the case.
- God is being just in allowing evil and suffering, as humans deserve punishment for their sins, and are already lucky that Jesus died to bring them eternal life.
  - → However, the innocent do seem to suffer, sometimes more than evil people, so this does not seem just.



# 



'You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commanded dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word.' (Psalm 119:2

- ◆ Another reason for evil and suffering explored in the **Book of Job** is that the Book of Job is viewed by many Christians as a poetical exploration of sufferit tells the story of a man called Job who had many good things and worsh to cause bad things to happen to Job to see if Job will still worship God. It person, but he had never been tested; the real test was to see if he was still had happened to him.
- The Book of Job also explores the idea that evil and suffering are a *test of faith*. It is possible that the obstacles in a Christian's life they we is a too doubt God's existence. The Book of Job shows that Job had a much better the storing of God after his trials. They may be an allowed really consider his relationship with Gook but he could have having a relationship with God after experiencing suffering shows that faith is more genuine.

The between having high vice versal there is less need for Gotthing, department.

(Some Christians feel that they should **pray** to God to reduce evil and suffering prayer has resulted in God stepping in to end or reduce a particular instance of teaches Christians to ask God to protect them from evil, and without evil's exist possible – allowing evil encourages such prayer, and also concern for others and

'And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one [or land the continuous form of the con

 Some Christians say that God should not be doubted, and that the problem our understanding. The Book of Job indicates that God's reasons are beyon

[God to Job] "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell have understanding." (Job 38:4 NRSV)

◆ However, many people argue that there must be better ways of testing charbeing able to understand God is not a satisfactory solution.

Some people are not able to accept that God is right to allow evil and suffering and for them the solutions are not successful. They may be faith, or never be

For others, these solutions do solve the problem of size and suffering and are sureasons for evil/suffering, God cannot roles thing, and/or free will with evil is

# Quick Questic

Describe **one** solution to the problem of evil and suffering.

# Now Try This...

7) Explain the importance of the problem of evil and suffering within Clim

# 



# Jesus Christ

## **Keywords:**

- adultery sex where at least one of the participants is married to someone they are having sex with
- agape unconditional love, God's love, love which Christians should have for
- **blasphemy** saying or doing something insulting to God
- Christ the Greek word for Messiah
- divorce the legal ending of a marriage
- fast to go without sustenance, or without luxurious is see of food
- **Lord** a title given to someone in authority "5 d Christians to show Jesu referred to as 'Lord'
- Messiah this is Hebrew for the defendance one, and in Christian use signifies the
- oath per per about something someone will do. Often this involves
- profa to mistreat, especially that which is religious [verb]. Something no disrespectful (sometimes towards the religious) [adjective].
- **reconciliation** being reunited in a positive sense with someone one was
- **retaliation** taking revenge against someone for something they have do similar to the harm they inflicted
- saviour someone who saves Christians see Jesus as a spiritual saviour
- **Son of God** this term is used to indicate Jesus' unique relationship with G
- **Temple** the Jewish holy building in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, which
- **Transfiguration** when Jesus was transformed, and began to shine, in from from heaven, and Moses and Elijah appeared

# Meaning of Terms: Messiah. Son of God. Lord and Saviour and Significance and Relevance for Christians of these as Descriptions of Jesus

The **Messiah** is a Jewish idea, and is not a new idea within Christianity. Following **Old Testament prophecy**, the Jews believed that God would sem them a Messiah (anointed one) to save them (many still believe this today). the time of Jesus, there had not been a prophet important enough to be recorded in the Jewish Scriptures for decades, and possibly centuries, depending on when the last Old Testament prophets are believed to have

Beliefs among the Jews about the Messiah included that he would bring the political liberation, and that he would be cended from King David, an important king in Jewish bis a vivuse life is recorded in the Jewish Script (and the Old\_Testarian hey seemed to believe that the Messiah would come to rule r them, as the Jewish judges and kings had in the past, be they had been forced to submit to foreign rule, by those such as the Babylonian Empire and, at the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire. Prophecy which has been used

by the Jews, now and at the time of Jesus, to predict such a Messiah comes mainly from the book of Isaiah, but books such as other prophetic books and the Psalms have also been

seen to contain some sections of relevance.

King Dav is record and th€ Testame found granting Jewish p

# 



'He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples' (Is (taken by Jews to mean that the Messiah will rule on earth, as a political leads

'... then I will establish your royal throne, as I made covenant with your father never lack a successor to rule over Israel."' (2 Chronicles 7:18 NRSV) (taken would be a future Jewish leader, the Messiah, from David's line)

The **Gospels** present Jesus as a very different Messiah (or **Christ**) from the one which the Jews were expecting. The term Messiah is used to show that Jesus is the fulfilment of these Old ament predictions, and that he has been sent by God to a chumanity. However, the gospels portray Jesus and pointical **saviour**, but a spiritual one.

Do for Me con

**Christians** 



tal Jesus came to save them from their **sins**, rather than

'She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his peo (Matthew 1:21 NRSV)

'For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.' (Luke 19:10 NRS)

The Jesus of Mark's Gospel also appears to question whether the Messiah (Mark 12), by quoting scripture which suggests that David refers to the Messurely not refer to his 'son' in this way (Mark 12:36 NRSV). This could be tanot, and does not believe himself to be, descended from David, though mand which Matthew and Luke sought to prove in their Gospels, by tracing The passage may also be taken to emphasise that regardless of who Jesus more important than just a son of David, as he is the **Son of God.** 

Jesus being referred to as 'Lord' shows him to be important, recognised by leader and significant figure. With reference to the passage about King Day 12, it also potentially indicates that Jesus is more important than other lead Testament. The Apostles' **Creed** and the Nicene Creed refer to Jesus as 'Lord'

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus admits to being the Messiah when questioned by the (Mark 14). He follows this up by saying that he will be sented at God's right Mark is deliberate in his contrast between this and one next use of Messiah mock Jesus on the cross, suggesting he besus were the Messiah, he could Mark's Jesus presents his in a salarip as being out of this world, claiming whereas the less assume that the Messiah's power would be defined that no less and that no less admits to being the Messiah's power would be defined that no less and that no less admits to being the Messiah's power would be defined that no less and that no less admits to being the Messiah when questioned by the Messiah when questioned

'He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You (Mark 8:29 NRSV)

'Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Bles (Mark 14:61–62 NRSV)

# 



There are many references in the Gospels to Jesus as the Son of God, for exhis son at Jesus' **baptism**, and the **Transfiguration**.

'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' (Matthew 3:16

'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' (Ma

Others also referred to him as the Son of God in the **New Testament**:

'Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

'God is faithful; by him you were called into (1 Corinthians 1:9 NRSV)

Within Mark's os a lows is only referred to as 'Son of God' three times sentence costs is Gospel, where Mark proclaims his belief that Jesus is the referred to as son of God by demons and unclean spirits, as though the spitrue identity, and that until his death and **resurrection**, Jesus portrayed him would be after his resurrection, and after his suffering (see above), that his fully revealed.

The Roman Centurion at Jesus' death also refers to him as 'God's Son', shown his identity, and the **salvation** he brought humanity, was available for every

'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' (Mark 1:1

'Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and show God!" But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.' (Mark 3:11–12)

'Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he bethis man was God's Son!"' (Mark 15:39 NRSV)

At the time of Jesus, equating someone with God or claiming God's power So for first century Jews, claiming that Jesus was God's Son could be considered by the book of Acts (after the gospels in the New Testament) indicates that first responsible for killing Christians because they disagreed with the status the

On the other hand, some scholars have a reletivations to like shimself Jewish, though he followed with a referring to actually meant that Jesus a referring to someone as God's Son could be seen someone variables a human.

# Activity

Use an online Bible to search for instances in the Gospels where Jesus is referred – you should be able to search for the terms in the search bar.

# 



From Mark's Gospel, it is hard to know what Jesus thought about being the Son of God as he never refers to himself this way. However, when he rebukes demons for addressing him this way, Mark implies that he does so to keep his identity secret, rather than because they were wrong. Jesus clearly thought he had a special relationship with God; whether he thought he was divine is hard to tell.

It is significant for many Christians that they feel Jesus was aware of fulfilling Old Testament prophesy; that he was the Messiah who God intended to send. Many Christians feet in ional prophesies in the Old Testament 12 Jefferring to the coming of Jesus as in 15 Jesus an; prophesies which Jews (now en) do/did not regard as



Matthias Stom's portra Caiaphas, c. 1630 – in

concerning Messiah. Some of these are reflected in the Gospels, for expealing 22 on the cross, calling out to God. This indicates to Christians today role, and this is significant because if he was not aware he was the Messiah would need to play, this would shed doubt on the widespread Christian be significant because it shows that Jesus felt that the role of Messiah was mespolitical, and this reminds Christians that it is more important for them to be politically liberated.

Many twenty first century Christians believe that references to Jesus as the Testament, and references to the miraculous things he did, mean that he visignificant because, if true, it means that God cared enough about humans and to die for them himself. It also means that God can relate to how hum however, would take the view that Jesus had a special relationship with Go and this is significant for how they view Jesus, and how they view God.

Apart from showing Jesus' status as an important person and a leader, 'Low describe Jesus for Christians, as the word 'LORD' in capitals in the Bible stars Calling Jesus 'Lord' reminds Christians of Jesus' relationship with God.

'... the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed in of life...' (Genesis 2:7 NRSV)

Jesus being a saviour is significant to Caristians, because they believe that sins, and allowed the police a relationship with God. As well as meaning death, and the police of forgiven wrongdoing, salvation through Jesus because make lieve that they no longer need to follow the Jewish law. Sommandments in order to please God, and hope that he will save them, but took the place of this law.

These titles as descriptions of Jesus are relevant to Christians today because

- They believe that Jesus came to save them spiritually, and this forms
- They do not expect God to send them a political saviour.



- Many believe that Jesus is God God's Son, one of the members of and pray to him.
- They believe that Jesus is someone to look up to, follow and obey.
- They believe that they do not need to follow all of the laws in the Oldsaved through Jesus rather than the law.

## Role and Importance of Jesus' Teachings and Life as an Example for

Jesus' teachings and example are important for Christians, as they show C

Probably the most important teaching and example of Jesus was to show and help them. Jesus taught that loving God and loving others was the most aught that these were the two greatest command in soits. Christians, there worshipping God and putting others and the lives.

"Teach which analyses and ment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him your thail your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind commandent. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as you commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:36–39 NIX)

Some Christians interpret this passage as meaning that if they love God and do not need to follow any other laws – all laws which God gave had this pulloving manner, then you do not need to follow specific rules. Others believed to be followed, Jesus is just saying that this is the reasoning behind laws, burrelevant. While the vast majority of Christians do not observe all biblical likely to observe the biblical laws in the Old Testament are the Catholic and **evangelical** and fundamentalist Christians.

As well as teaching people to love others, Jesus showed that this love should not necessarily just those who people would think to help. In the story of the 10:25–37) Jesus tells of a man who is beaten and left to die by robbers. A power worked in the Temple ignore the man, but a Samaritan helps he pays the innkeeper to continue to care for the man. Jesus teaches that people samaritan – going out of their way to help people who they do not know if

"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell in He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do

To add some context to the passage, pries's and it is who worked in the purity rules – the first two men who has been attacked fear of making themselve in the purity unclean by coming into contact with have then had the property of cleansing rituals, and/or avoid the Temple for However, it is illustration these people do not help the man, as the they would have been viewed highly in their communities. On the other has Samaria, near to the region where Jesus lived, were not viewed kindly by the religion similar to Judaism (there are still Samaritans today), but with some they believe they should worship God. So Jesus showed that it was not which mattered to God. He also showed that helping others was more impositely as the purity rules.

### Taking it further...

Find out some more about Jewish purity laws to understand why Jesus' te

# 



Jesus also demonstrated this belief – that showing love was more important law – through his actions. He healed a man who had the skin disease leproduced Jesus would have been forbidden from touching such a person – because unclean (as well as risking spreading the disease). Such actions of Jesus are showing them that loving others is more important than following purity leaching, most Christians do not follow Jewish purity laws, seeing them as them on their actions towards others.

'When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be to clean!" Immediate (Matthew 8:1–3 NRSV)

Jesus' actions of love to 2 a component in prompting Christians 5:21–42, Jesus common neal a man's daughter. On the way, surrounded internal ble touches his cloak, believing this will make her well. Jesus stops to identify the woman who touched him. He tells her that she has be faith. While this is happening, messengers arrive to say that the girl Jesus However, Jesus tells them to have faith. He goes to the house where the dethat she is just sleeping, and raises her.

'He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and Mark 5:34 NRSV)

'... Do not fear, only believe.' (Mark 5:36 NRSV)

Jesus demonstrates that he will heal/help people if asked, and that people God if they have faith. He also encourages those without faith to believe. Christians when they begin to doubt God – or simply do not consider askin them to always have faith.

Some Christians believe that the girl in this passage had not died – she had slipped into a coma ('sleeping', as Jesus put it). However, many believe the Jesus did raise the girl from the dead.

The bleeding woman would have been an outcast with Jewish society, as her disease would probably have made her rit all (1) flean. This reinforces the idea that Jesus came to save ever a particular those who were ignored and rejected by other and eminds Christians that God's **salvatic** is available for everyone in can be particularly significant to Christians from minch proposed in can be particularly significant to Christians from minch proposed in this passage might be particularly significant for them for example, many lower-class Hindus have converted to Christianity, because in Hinduism, different classes of people are viewed differently, and the religion is not equally accessible to all.

# 



Jesus' love has been described as **agape** – a Greek term often translated in love. Such teachings and examples of Jesus' love may be considered agaps.

- Jesus taught that everyone should be loved, not just certain peoplefrom society such as a man with leprosy and a woman with internal be
- Jesus taught that God cares about love more than following rules Is
   Samaritan and healed the man with leprosy though this made him ris

Christians believe God loves them regardless of what they do or what sort would always do what was best for them, regardless of the cost to himself, the cross.

Christians believe that they should also show accordance to others.

You have heard the way and, "You shall love your neighbour and hate you, you, I would be and pray for those who persecute you, so that you in hear the makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends the unameous." (Matthew 5:43–45 NRSV)

## The Christian Ideal as Expressed in Jesus' Teaching in the Sermon of

The Sermon on the Mount is a section of teaching in Matthew's Gospel (chief to have been delivered by Jesus on a mountain (there are similarities between the Plain in Luke's Gospel).

### The Beatitudes

In a section called the Beatitudes, Jesus talks about all the people who are is linked to the word 'blessing'). Included in those who are blessed are the righteousness, and those who show mercy. This makes sense, but it is interest in the encouraging characteristics or positions which might be thought to be 'we meekness and those who are persecuted. Jesus did not necessarily conform expectations – he was teaching that those who experience misfortune and by society are rewarded by God. He said nothing about the strong, or the a way. This encourages Christians to live their lives in ways pleasing to God way expected by society.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the (Matthew 5:10 NRSV)

# What Jesus Commands Peoで こんちょう こ るる

Break religious la sale courage others to do so. Jesus claim at a la not come to stop people from following Jewis. This is an interesting teaching, considering that Christians do not keep all of the Jewish laws. Some Christians may choose to interpret this to mean 'important' laws, such as the **Ten Commandments**, rather than Jewish dietary and purity laws.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come (Matthew 5:17 NRSV)

# 



◆ Be angry at others or insult them. Jesus extended Jewish teaching — physically hurt others, but they should refrain from mentally hurting in any way. So Christians should make sure that they are kind in all rethemselves to be consumed by anger.

'But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "Yo the hell of fire.' (Matthew 5:22 NRSV)

• Lust after someone (**adultery**). While in the Ter Commandments, Go not to commit adultery, Jesus teaches that they god – it is not enough that they need to try to contour meir thoughts and intentions, and the these.

'You simm not commit adultery.' (Exodus 20:14 NRSV)

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his (Matthew 5:27–28 NRSV)

Get divorced. Jesus teaches that while divorce had been permitted, this was wrong. Many Christians interpret his teaching here to mean that divorce is wrong unless your spouse has cheated on you. Jesus implies that remarrying after divorce (unless the other person has committed adultery) is adultery itself. Others may feel that Jesus does not specifically condemn divorce here, but rather remarriage after divorce (as divorcing someone and staying single is not adultery). The Catholic Church is completely against divorce (based on other teachings



The Se

from Jesus), and would view this passage as part of Jesus' teaching a though he does not explicitly express this here

'It was also said, "Whoever " is wife, let him give her a certificate of that anyone who dive that anyone who dive the except on the ground of unchastity, cause whoever are control woman commits adultery.' (Matthew 5:31–32 N

◆ Take oaths. Jesus told people to speak plainly, and not to swear by an many interpretations. One is that oaths should not be necessary – peothe time, making oaths redundant. Another interpretation is that it is something, for example, 'by heaven' because it is possible that you many the context of the

'...Do not swear at all...' (Matthew 5:34 NRSV)



• **Retaliate**. Jesus told people that they should not hurt another personant first. This goes against older Jewish teaching which allowed people justice for wrongs done. Some Christians argue that this older teaching of wanted people to retaliate, but because he wanted to limit retaling further revenge, as if they lost an eye, they could take no more than

'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other

• **Build up wealth**. There are many teachings in the Gospels where Jestore money or care about possessions. The plication here is that and other important things – China s should be concerned with the helping others, and note an obsessions. Also, money is not permanent

'Do n up or yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consibreak steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neithand where thieves do not break in and steal... You cannot serve God and weal

 Worry. Jesus teaches that worrying cannot help people, and so it is implication that worry shows lack of faith – if people trust that God w plan for them, they do not need to worry.

'But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrowill he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?' (Matthew 6:30 NRSV)

◆ Judge others. Jesus taught that as all people sin, it is hypocritical to sinning, or look down on them, when everyone sins. So it is better to better person than condemning others for how wrong they are. This teaching for modern Christians to remember, as there are many who of people for various reasons – Jesus taught that this was wrong.

'You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see of your neighbour's eye.' (Matthew 7:5 NRSV)

Profane the holy. Jesus teaches not to mistre. What is holy. This te interpretations, and not every Christian selectes the same one(s). May Christianity to those they know with Jam them for doing so. Maybe others badly if they is the lambda Christianity where it will be misunderstood and If you to know more interpretations, you can research them on

'Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swir under foot and turn and maul you.' (Matthew 7:6 NRSV)

# 



# What Jesus Commands People to do

◆ **Let your light shine** for others. Show others how Christians are good show how wonderful God is.

'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see you glory to your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5:16 NRSV)

Reconcile with others. Jesus taught that anger towards other humans not made up for, damage a person's relationship with God – Christophic reconcile with others so they can concentrate on God and not on any

'So when you are offering your gift at to all r is you remember that your be against you, leave your gift the foreign altar and go; first be reconciled then come and offer your fit.' (. Latthew 5:23–24 NRSV)

◆ Love enemies. Jesus taught that people should want good for people only care about those who care about them, this does not make should go out of their way to care for all.

'... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...' (Matthew 5

Give, pray, and fast in secret. Jesus teaches that if people want to decharity, pray, fast, etc., then they should do it for God, and not to should do it.

'But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right harmay be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.'

◆ **Forgive**. Jesus teaches that forgiveness is necessary – if people wan wrong which they do, they need to do the same for others.

'For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also for forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.' (Matthew 6

◆ **Ask God for what you need**. Christians need to have faith in God, as for them, rather than relying on themselves.

'Ask, and it will be given to vortice, and you will find; knock, and the do (Matthew 7:7 NRSV)

 Trea s as you would want to be treated. In the Golden Rule that people should act towards others as they want to be acted towards others as they want to be acted towards.

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the (Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

# 



◆ Put God's word into action. Jesus teaches that Christians must bothim – to believe Jesus but not to follow his teachings is foolish.

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like house on rock.' (Matthew 7:24 NRSV)

# **Quick Questions**

- 8) Give **three** of Jesus' teachings from the Serman in the Mount.
- 9) Outline how Jesus' life and tracting are an example for Christians.





# 



# Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection

Most Christians have come to believe that Jesus is God, and so during his tincarnate; or God in the flesh (God and human at the same time). They also God (see the sections on *The Trinity*, and *Jesus Christ*). Christians also believe crucifixion (was crucified), came back to life again (was resurrected), and

# **Keywords:**

- Incarnation in Christianity, the belief that Jesus was God in the flesh
- covenant a promise between people and God, usually involving promises
- Crucifixion when Jesus was put to death on a cross
- **Eucharist** sacrament which involves sharing bread wine in remembra
- ♦ **Great Commission** when the risen Jesus † ກລ ໂຄ່ຣ ລ sciples to go and prea
- Last Supper Jesus' final celebratic
- **Lent** the period of prenar and solutions remember Jesus' to sacrifice Jesus made to compare the compared to the compared
- Pass efc ் பு ல the events surrounding the suffering and death of Jes
- Passion important Jewish festival celebrating God's deliverance of the first-born, and slavery in Egypt
- ♦ Sabbath the Jewish holy day
- sacrament a particularly important worship practice which has even high such as the Catholic and Orthodox Churches

# Beliefs and Teachings about Jesus Arising from the Incarnation

### Nature of the Person of Jesus as the Incarnate Son of God

The exact nature of Jesus as both God and human has been debated within Christianity.

- Some early Christians claimed that Jesus was completely God and merely appeared to be human.
- Some Christians have claimed that Jesus was a divine being, but not on the same level as God.
- Some Christians have believed, and still believe today, that Jesus was fully human, but had a special relationship with God. All humans can be referred to as God's children, so 'Son of God' does not necessarily indicate divine status, but rather that Jesus was a special human chosen by God with a special relationship with him.

As seen in the section on the Trinity, some Christian denominations, so do not interpret Bible passages to mean that 's so vas God incarnate shows Jesus to be a special human. The do the feel that the incarnate have taught God's will and did to so humanity, so they do not feel them, belief in the incarnate significant as a mistake made by other

• Mains Consumity teaches that Jesus was fully human and fully God. hristians feel that Jesus' human nature and divine nature most of, the time. When Jesus suffered, he felt pain as any other huma God. Some Christians believe that, as a human, Jesus was not complete the time.

# 



## **Biblical Basis for the Teaching of the Incarnation**

The word 'incarnation' originates in Latin; as such, it does not occur in the written in Greek). The belief in the Incarnation is not universally held, and of the **Gospel** writers and other writers of the New Testament did not belief However, the New Testament can still be used to provide evidence for the

 John 1:1–18 claims that Jesus has existed as God since before Creation incarnation of God.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word And the Word became flesh and lived among us... Jesus Christ...' (John 1:1)

While this is an important passage for many Constrains, some scholars suggives added by a different author, and the original Gospel. It may have early Christian beliefs and a wearly constraint beliefs and the wearly constraint belief to the wearly constraint beliefs and the wearly constraint belief to the wearly constraint beliefs and the wearly constraint beliefs and the wearly constraint beliefs and the wearly constraint belief to the wearly constraint beliefs and the wearly constraint belief to the wearly constr

• 1 Time 16 craims that God was revealed as a human [as Jesus].

'Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He (Or: God) was a vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in taken up in glory.' (1 Timothy 3:16 NRSV)

Many Christians believe that the incarnation came about by Mary, Jesus' himpregnated by the Holy Spirit – so Jesus had both human and divine pare

'The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called (Luke 1:35 NRSV)

## References to Jesus' God-like Qualities / Divine Nature

- Jesus healed many people, including the Centurion's servant, a leper, the haemorrhages, a blind man, and he raised Lazarus from the dead (Luke and 11).
- Jesus performed other miracles, such as making five loaves and two five water, and calming a storm (Matthew 14, Mark 4).
- Jesus claimed the authority to forgive sins and cast out demons, typic
   which he backed up with his healing abilities (2.4. 2.2.2 and 5, Matthew 9.3.2)
- Even though he was killed, he was the week, confirming his power of Mark 14–16, Luke 22–24 Jann 1 21).

## Jesus' Hu

The Bible a erences Jesus' human nature – he is reported to:

- have eaten (e.g. Mark 3);
- have felt tired (e.g. John 4) and slept (e.g. Mark 4);
- have cried when his friend died (John 11:35);
- have suffered leading up to his death (e.g. Luke 23); and
- he died a painful death on the cross (e.g. Matthew 27).

## 



Christians do not believe that Jesus being the **incarnation** of God made his Christians also use Jesus' humanity to explain times in the Gospels where knowledge – if he were only God and not human, then this might not make

## Activity

Discuss with a friend how believing in the Incarnation might be reflected in a compared with someone who does not believe in the Incarnation

## Importance to Christians of the Incarnation for their Life and Worsh

Jesus being the Incarnation of God is important to Christians for a number

- ♦ This shows God cared about people enough to Deal mula human and die
- This shows that Jesus had God's the ity and taught his will, and so Claud practice for certain.
- This shows that C: as ower to become human, raise the dead, peestable the bound has the power to grant life after death, meaning forwards a fterlife.
- It helps Christians to have a personal relationship with God, because to a relationship with them. Some Christians feel that by following Jesus can come closer to God, and having an incarnated

God makes it easier to relate to him.

- Belief in the Incarnation has led many Christians to see Jesus as a fulfilment of the Jewish law, meaning that they no longer need to follow this for their sins to be forgiven, as Jesus' sacrifice frees them from condemnation.
- Belief in Jesus being God incarnate (or the only incarnation of God) is unique to Christianity. Islam views Jesus as a **prophet**, and some Hindus believe that Jesus was one incarnation of God (or of one particular god) among many. Therefore, belief in the Incarnation sets Christians apart from people of other religions and is one of their core beliefs.



Painting of the *Holy* is sha

## Crucifixion - Synopsis

The belief that Jesus died and was raised from the dead is of central import beliefs are expressed in the Apostle's **Creed** and the Nicene Creed. The everage often referred to as his '**Passion**', because the word rassion comes from Jesus' Passion is remembered especially during in and at Easter, but it is

## Before the acifixion:

Jesus eats a last meal (the **Last Supper**) with his **disciples**, where he shares that these are his body and blood given for them, and that they should sharemembrance of him. He says that this is a new **covenant** – a promise to

'Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Driss my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiven (Matthew 26:27–28 NRSV)

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After this, Jesus is betrayed by his disciple Judas. Jesus is tried in front of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate; and in Luke's account by King Herod. The Pilate to kill Jesus.

### **Crucifixion:**

Jesus is beaten and mocked by soldiers before being led to be crucified. They put a crown of thorns on his head, and mock him as the King of the Jews. In Matthew's, Mark's and Luke's Gospels the soldiers make a traveller called Simon of Cyrene carry Jesus' cross to the **Crucifixion**; in John's Gospel he carries it himself. Jesus is offered some type of wine, but refuses it.

Jesus is crucified between two other criminals, and an olders gamble for Jesus' clothing. The plaque on the cross of tilling his crime states that he is the mocked, taunted and told to say and the by the Jewish authorities, and also by/soldiers in some accounts of which when one when one will be in heaven.

'Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminal on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they cast lots to divide his clothing.' (Luke 23:32–34 NRSV)

Different accounts convey different words of Jesus from the cross. For example, in Matthew's and Mark's accounts Jesus quotes Psalm 22, asking why God has forsaken him, and in Luke's Gospel Jesus commends his spirit to God before dying.

The sky goes dark from about midday until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when Jesus dies. When Jesus dies, the curtain in the **Temple** is ripped in two. In some accounts, the Roman centurion, upon witnessing Jesus' death, states that he must have been God's son (Matthew and Mark), or that he must have been innocent (Luke).

'And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was Cod's Son!"' (Mark 15:38–39 NRSV)

Jesus' death is witnessed by some common who followed him. In John's Gospel soldiers and electric side with a spear to check that he is dead.

Jesus' body en to one of his followers, Joseph of Arimathea, to bury. left on the crosses, as it was the day of preparation for the Passover.

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## Resurrection – Synopsis

Jesus died on the Friday, and the **Sabbath** (Saturday) the next day was kep Consequently, the women who followed Jesus could not go to prepare his morning. The **resurrection** story varies greatly between the different gos all four versions (in the order they appear in the Bible).

In Matthew's Gospel, an angel appears to the women and tells them to then Jesus appears to his **disciples** when the women have told them to

'Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, too worshipped him.' (Matthew 28:9 NRSV)

- In Mark's Gospel, a man (of an in real med to be an angel) is sitting in the same and tells the women that Jewas as a caraised. In the longer ending of this Gamesus appears to Mary Magdalene and then to his disciples.
- In Luke's Gospel, two men (often presumed to be which expla often referre angels) appear to the women and tell them that Jesus has risen. The women are scared and tell the disciples. The disciples do not want to believe them, though Peter goes to investigate the tomb. Jesus then appears to two of his followers on a journey, though they do not realise down to eat. He also appears to Simon Peter and his other disciples, and teaching them. He tells them to wait in Jerusalem [for the Holy Sp

'While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but h (Luke 24:4-5 NRSV)

In John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb and alerts so two angels sitting in the tomb, and then she sees Jesus. Then Jesus and the disciple Thomas, and then again when Thomas is present. Thomas Thomas' because he would not believe that Jesus had risen until he sa appears to his disciples again when they are fishing

## Ascension – Synopsis

good news about him.

The **ascension** is not specified a martioned in Matthew's Gospel or John's ends with Jesus tell in disciples to go out and teach about him and make implying them physically. This is known as the Great Co more in the adon on The Place of Mission, Evangelism and Church Grow also given in Mark's Gospel. John's Gospel ends with a conversation between testimony from the Gospel writer.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus blesses his **disciples** and ascends to heaven, and the Gospel mentions that Jesus was taken up into heaven and seated next to @

'While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up ir

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Mary Magd Jesus, and pro

disciples,

no soli

several of the that she was The ascension is also recorded in the Book of Acts:

'When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly tw by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards" been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw (Acts 1:9-11 NRSV)

## Beliefs and Teachings about Jesus Arising from the Crucifixion/Resurrection/Ascension

- Jesus' sacrifice replaced the Jewish law. (His Jewand blood are a new **covenant** instead citive invision covenant of the law.)
- Jesus was obedien was will in submitting to death.
- Jesus hu and enough to die for them.
- Jesus was able to die. Jesus believed that dying was his purpose he did not try to stop the priests or Pilate from putting him to death.



Jesus p to

## Importance to Christians of the Crucifixion/Resurrection/Ascension for their Life and Worship

Christians believe that the purpose of Jesus' life was so that he could teach sacrifice to save humans from their **sin**. Christians believe that Jesus' life a **covenant**, a promise between God and humankind. Jesus replaced the old so that Christians no longer needed to follow this, but could instead be save

## Taking it further...

Why don't you read Matthew 26–28, Mark 14–16, Luke 22–24, and John 18– **passion** and resurrection narratives?

Different aspects of Jesus' resurrection and crucifixion also have particular for Christians.

Aspect of Jesus' last days	Importance and Significan
Jesus died at	For Christians, Jesus became the Passover lamb. The J
the time of the	Passover to remember when the marked their doc
Passover	they were saved from the Higge of death in Egypt, and
festival	from the Econol Community (2) Now, for Christians, Jesus was the
Jesus' death predicted Last Supp	May a Suan <b>denominations</b> remember Jesus' sacri
	of Jesus giving his life to save them from their sin – Jes
	because of his sacrifice.

# 



Aspect of Jesus' last days	Importance and Significan
Fulfilment of Old Testament prophesy	Many Christians believe that various aspects of Jesus' correspond to <b>Old Testament prophecy</b> . Some believe servant' mentioned in Isaiah 53. Some believe that sold clothing and Jesus being mocked correspond with propagation (among other things). If Jesus fulfilled prophecy, this stredeem humankind had been part of God's plan for a believe these prophecies were fulfilled, and do not believe first place.)
Destroying the <b>Temple</b> and rebuilding in three day	When Jesus had spoken about don ying the Temple in his trial in front of the Jowich Zouncil in some gospel meant the Temple interpolate the meant himself; that God dwelt with Temple was destroyed, less than 50 years after sesus as replacing the physical Temple – that they should be the property of the physical Temple – that they should be the physical temple – the physical temple
The Temple curtain tearing in two	The Temple curtain separated the Holy of Holies (the part was supposed to dwell) from the rest of the Temple. The seen to symbolise that Jesus' death had removed the bar – he <b>reconciled</b> them. Christians today believe that any have a relationship with him through Jesus.  Christians believe that this applies to gentiles (non-Jews) death removed the barrier between God and all of human
Jesus rising from the dead	Christians believe that Jesus overcame sin and death, ar The religion of Christianity has continued due to belief Christians celebrate at Easter time.
Jesus' resurrection and <b>ascension</b>	These show Jesus' <b>divinity</b> and remind Christians of his could overcome death and rise to heaven. As Jesus as believed to be alive – able to help and watch over Chris

## Divergent Emphases on the Significance of Crucifixion/Resurrection/

Catholics tend to emphasise the importance of the **crucifixion** over the **res** most important thing was Jesus dying to **save** humanity from **sin**. Protestaresurrection over the crucifixion – they feel that this was when Jesus overcato have eternal life.

All Christians believe that Jesus are a decay heaven. For most this is significant is still alive in heaver are lso be seen to be significant because it being taken to be significant dying in the **Old Testament**.

# 



Most Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected physically – that his bod Biblical evidence for this includes Jesus' tomb being empty, Jesus eating, a to touch his crucifixion wounds.

'Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappin by itself.' (John 20:6–7 NRSV)

'Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach ow side. Do not doubt but believe." (John 20:27 NRSV)

However, some Christians (often modern Fotostands) believe that Jesus was not in his body – the resurrected appearing in a locked regarder.

'... he ed from their sigh

ed from their sight.' (Luke 24:31 NRSV)

'When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood an with you."' (John 20:19 NRSV)

However, many Christians who believe in a physical resurrection believe the different in some way, so that it could do these things.

Belief in a physical resurrection is significant, because it shows God's power to be able to resurrect physical bodies, and his complete control over the world. However, belief in a spiritual resurrection is still significant because it means that God can raise a person's spirit from the dead.

### **Paus**

What do you thing Jesus' disciples did from the dead? Wo

## Quick Questions

- 10) Give **three** reasons why the Jesus of the Gospels seems divine.
- 11) State **three** things which happened at Jewell C. Lifting in (according to

## Now ( is is is is is is is is is in the image).

12) 'Christians should believe that Jesus was God.' Discuss this statement

Analyse and evaluate the importance of points of view for and again views within Christianity, and refer to sources of wisdom and authority



## The Concept of Salvation

## **Keywords:**

atonement – making up for something; in Christianity, Jesus achieving salven paying a price

### Salvation

**Salvation** refers to the view within Christianity that Christians have been saldeath and resurrection, from **sin** and its consequences (Feath). This means death, or punishment, and can have a new start of a sint that God loves Salvation restores the relationship between God and humans which had be are forgiven.

Christians (1) a doing wrong (sin) separates them from God, and cor (death). He can be used instead – he paid the price which they should have a relationship with God, a clean slate. Also, when they die, this will be on with God in heaven. So salvation is important because it offers Christian opportunities and cancels their debt of sin – God forgives them.

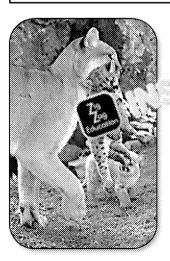
'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ (Romans 6:23 NRSV)

### Different ideas about salvation:

Christians accept that there is salvation because Jesus died and rose again. Howard about who can receive salvation, and how.

One view which some Christians, such as St Augustine, hold is that salvation is and that God has **predestined** who to save; chosen them at the beginning of sinned, they have no right to salvation, and God has not chosen to save everyomeans that humans do not have to worry about being perfect, because God do individual has done.

A second view held by some Christians is that humans have **free will** to choose accept what Jesus has done for them, and that salvation is down to the individuance and follow Jesus. This seems positive because no one is automatically except pressure on Christians to believe and live good live



## F . y .o remember this?

me people liken the first view of salvation, arrough predestination (being chosen by God), to a cat. Cats pick their young up by the neck to carry them.

Some people liken the second view of salvation, where the human must reach out to God, to a monkey. Baby monkeys must grab onto their mothers to be carried.

# 



## **Atonement**

**Atonement** refers to *how* Jesus achieved **salvation**, and how he redeemed for (or atoned for) their sins, so saved them from the consequences.

Atonement is a significant concept because it explains how it was possible for God to pay humans' debt himself and heal the rift between God and humaning for humans' sins, he could not have brought them salvation. God humanity in this way, through Jesus' actions.

### Different ideas about atonement – nature of atonement f

There are different ideas about how Jesus managed to atone for sin and save how could pay the price to redeem humans because he we have nan, but he was able because he was **divine**. Some think Jesus achieved at hemother through sacrific ransom – necessary for sin – death (think is a sused throughout because it is a lesus' sacrifice defeated the use it is a lesus the use i

[Jesus, Araking about himself:] 'For the Son of Man came not to be served by give his life a ransom for many.' (Mark 10:45 NRSV)

**The link between salvation and atonement:** Salvation is *what* Christians he saved humanity. Atonement refers to *how* Christians believe he did it –

### Law

Before Jesus, Jews aimed to achieve **salvation** through following God's law (the Jewish **law**) – most Jews still follow the Jewish law. The point of having a law was that it could show what was right and wrong – what was a **sin** and what wasn't. If there was a command not to do something, then people knew that it was a sin and could avoid it. Equally, if there was a commandment *to* do something (e.g. worship in a certain way) people knew that to act in a way which did *not* fulfil this was sinful.

However, many Christians believe that the law was not a permanent solution replaced this. Instead of following a written law, they should instead follow perfectly expressed in Jesus.

'This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those day I will put my laws in their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will shall be my people.' (Hebrews 8:10 NRSV)

Because of Jesus, Christians to 'ay to fee free from sin, and also free from This is not to say that the analysis anything they want, but that they do not to purify the live of the control of the contr

However, while Christians do not follow all of the rules in the **Old Testame** should follow the principles of God's law – just because Jesus died for hunthat Christians can do anything they like. However, St Paul makes it clear they following the law, only by following Jesus.

'... yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but the (Galatians 2:16 NRSV)

## 



## Sin

The term 'sin' often refers to acting against God's will, but can also refer to God due to humans not matching up to God's perfection. The consequent death and hell – if people act against God, they will be punished by dying believe that if they confess their sins and ask God to forgive them, then he hell, but will receive eternal life in heaven. The Apostles' **Creed** and the Niebelief that God has forgiven / will forgive sins.

As seen in the sections on *Biblical Accounts of Creation* and *The Problem & Loving and Righteous God*, there are two types of sin within Christianity – (though not all Christians believe in original sin). To really, original sin is a by humans, and personal sin is where humans in (v) (ally choose to disob

Jesus can be seen as a second Ada rewrio came to remedy the **Fall** and/or relationship with God as at sain. Regardless of whether humans inherit swill somet a record they need **saving** – through Jesus.

St Paul believed that all humans have committed sin, none are perfect like

'... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...' (Romans 3:23 NRSV)

Jesus gave many teachings on sin, recorded in the **New Testament**. He talk sinners, to rescue people from the consequences of sin. He told many people forgiven and preached that God would forgive the sins of those who rependitude to forgive sins.

'For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' (Matthew 9:13 NRSV)

'When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are for

'If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins (John 20:23 NRSV)

Jesus also taught that sin was severe – it should be avoided at all costs.

'And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is byour members than for your whole body to go into hell.' (Matthew 5:30 NR)

Further, Jesus corrected a misconception pursin which was common at a not necessarily the result of it — (a) I may not punish sin on Earth, and go a sign of sinlessness (a) I a avour.

'His da es asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blinding the revealed in him." (John 9:2–3 NRSV)

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## Grace and the Spirit

Christians believe that **grace** is a spiritual gift which God can give to people in order to save them. For example, Christians believe that sending Jesus to save humans was an extension of God's grace – his redeeming love.

'From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.' (John 1:16 NRSV)

The Holy Spirit, the third Person of God in the **Trinity**, is also believed to be can send his grace; by sending Christians the Holy Spirit on help them in the seen as a gift of the Spirit. Many Christians feet that they can also receive teaching in the **Bible** and through a remarks; for example, reliving Jesus accepting a new spiritual and haptism.

'To one yen through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another accorded to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit.' (1 Corinth)

'For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law (Romans 8:2 NRSV)

Christian's belief in grace is important – they feel that without God's grace God would not have sent Jesus.

'... they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that (Romans 3:24 NRSV)

### The Role of Christ in Salvation – Common and Divergent Christian B

Jesus' role in **salvation** is that he brought humans salvation – without him chance at a relationship with God. This is expressed in the Nicene **Creed**. It to a man called Nicodemus that he has come from heaven, so that those we eternal life (live forever). He explains that those who believe will be **saved** will not be saved.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16 NFSV)

Christians, from the beginning of Christ

"The lva mo no one else, for there is no other name under heaven by who must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NRSV)

Some people wonder why Jesus had to die to end this separation between could click his fingers and make everything ok if he wanted to? One Christ both **just** *and* merciful. Wrong had been done, so a just God *has* to punish However, he is merciful and wants to forgive. The solution: he accepts the he can forgive humanity. This is like paying a debt for a friend – the debt it instead of them.

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While all Christians believe that Jesus has brought them salvation, there are salvation works (as seen above). Some Christians, including Calvinists, believe available for certain people – people cannot freely choose it, because God saved before they were even conceived.

It can be argued that some Christians focus so much on **predestination**, the salvation comes from the act of God predestining their salvation alone and resurrection.

Lutherans believe that those who have **faith** are predestined to be saved. Lare saved through their faith (in Jesus), and not what they do – because the comes through Jesus' death and **resurrection**. are a large of the rough actions.

'For by grace you have best say a through faith, and this is not your own do not the result of weeks at his one may boast.' (Ephesians 2:8–9 NRSV)

Lutherans and Calvinists would interpret Ephesians 2:8–9 to mean that God a gift), and so no one can choose to come to God, without God choosing to them).

However, other Christians believe that while God has chosen that those who humans still have **free will** to choose whether to come to God and accept fall into this category. They feel that Jesus brought all the possibility of salv

from God, not through anything humans have done to deserve it. However they interpret faith being a 'gift' to mean that God has offered it to all – anyone can choose to accept faith, and then God saves them.

### Belief in Forgiveness and Repentance for All

These differing views on **predestination**, **free will**, **faith** and **salvation** have raised issues for Christians. In several places in the Gospels, Jesus says that he has come for all. He tells his disciples to proclaim to all peoples 'repentance and forgiveness of sins' – in other words that those who repent will be forgiven.



Stained glass

Jesus tell

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are car " is heavy burdens, and I  $\ast$  (Matthew 28:11 NRSV)

'... and [Jesus] said to "Thas it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer the third day, a to prepentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed begin to perusalem."' (Luke 24:46–47 NRSV)

This can be seen to suggest that all people can choose to come to God -a forgiven. Other places in the New Testament also suggest that God wants cannot have chosen only certain people to be saved.

'The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is pany to perish, but all to come to repentance.' (2 Peter 3:9 NRSV)

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## Taking it further...

Find out more about different beliefs about free will, predestination

However, Calvinists, Lutherans, and many other Christians do not believe to forgiven – because God has only chosen to save certain people. Some also chosen to damn those who he has not chosen to save – they have no hope consequence of predestination, but many who believe in predestination to does not actively choose to damn others, but that their damnation is just to their sins, and of not being saved.)

Christians, such as Calvinists and Lutherans, interprot the e Bible verses in all who are weary, this does not imply everyone— this does not imply that all indibut just that people in all the property places have this option.

Even passificated as 2 Peter 3 (which was a letter) could be taken as refer who will be add, rather than all people everywhere. Many Bible verses do Jesus will be saved, and so Calvinists and Lutherans can argue that these peto have faith. Others, such as Methodists can argue that faith is a free choice.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who perish but may have eternal life.' (John 3:16 NRSV)

## Common and Divergent Christian Beliefs about the Need for Salvation

All Christians believe that they need **salvation** – all **sin**, and all should have However, reasons for needing salvation differ, as do primary motivations for

Churches which believe in **original sin**, such as the Catholic Church, believe to reunite them with God because of how Adam and Eve damaged human **personal sins**).

Christians who do not accept original sin, such as many modern Protestanianeed saving due to something which Adam and Eve did, but rather they not themselves have done (they believe that all humans are imperfect and will

Orthodox Christians are mainly concerned with needing salvation as a way have a relationship with him.

Some branches of Christianity, such as C. hill memphasise needing salvati punishment of sin.

## Quick Particol

13) Describe the concept of salvation.

## Now Try This...

14) Explain why beliefs about salvation and atonement are important to 🛭

# 



## Eschatological Beliefs and Tea

Christians believe in an afterlife – that there will be another life after death important within Christianity.

## **Keywords:**

- catechism here, official Catholic teaching
- eschatology anything to do with the end of things, such as the end of life has a religious context
- heaven a place people go after death, where God is
- hell a place people go after death away from God
- ♦ immortality of the soul where a spiritual per or a person continues fore
- **judgment** when people will be read and a punished for their lives
- parables stories with an image in conting, for the purpose of teaching
- Parousia Greek for a for coming, here this means the second coming
- purgate . . . Latholics believe people may go after death to do penal
- result of the body the physical raising of a person who is dead

## Resurrection and life after death (resurrection of the body and immo

Not all Christians agree on how life after death works. Some believe that God will raise humans' physical bodies at the end of time. Others believe that a spiritual part of a person, their soul, lives on after death and goes straight to heaven/hell/purgatory (see the section on these below). Some Christians believe in both; that the soul will enter the afterlife immediately after death, but that there will be a bodily resurrection for everyone at judgment at the end of time, where souls and bodies are reunited. In other words, people will enter a spiritual realm after death based on their actions during their life, and many will go to purgatory to atone for sins (see more on this below). At the end of time, God will judge everyone on their actions during life and after death, and people will then enter either heaven or hell for the rest of eternity (people who had previously been in purgatory have the chance to enter heaven).



Picture ©

Therefore, there are varied beliefs about the nature of purrection: some believe that it is delayed at til the end of time; so be resurrected while some believe that it is delayed at til the end of time; so be resurrected while some believe that it is delayed, and that in heaven the bodies, completely different to early addies. However, all Christians agree that this is available to the necessary accuse Jesus has saved them and God has the

(These interactions of resurrection correspond with different interpretations believe that people will remain dead until the last judgement, we just a brief transition – after death they will be spiritually in heaven.)

Different Bible passages support different ideas about resurrection.

## COPYRIGHT PROTECTED



Some Christians believe in **resurrection of the body** because Jesus was raisort of bodily form, and he raised others from the dead physically; for examplairus' daughter (Mark 5). Also, Jesus taught that the dead will be raised from time. St Paul questioned how Christians could doubt resurrection when Jes Apostles' **Creed** and the Nicene Creed are taken to affirm belief in resurrection the Nicene Creed).

"Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the voice and will come out..." (John 5:28–29 NRSV)

'Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the deal,' w can some of you sthe dead?' (1 Corinthians 15:12 NRSV)

Many Christians believe that when their body is resurrected, it will be different in some sections in Lar.

'...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God... For the trumpet will raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must this mortal body must put on immortality.' (1 Corinthians 15:50, 52–53 NRS)

However, other Christians believe in **immortality of the soul** because Jesu 6:47; 17:2), not life which ends and then starts again at some point in the futhieves on the cross that he would be in heaven that day, which implies the wait to be resurrected at the end of time. (With reference to the previous believe that Christians will get improved spiritual bodies in heaven immed

[to the thief on the cross] '"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Para(Luke 23:43 NRSV)

The Catholic Church teaches that both will happen, because the Bible teaches not want to deny any teachings of Jesus.

### **Activity**

Find some more Bible quotes which support different ideas abo

Resurrection is important because:

- Christians believe that there will be a safter death.
  - → This can comfort the bounds they know death will not be the e
  - ightharpoonup This can  $\epsilon$  and  $\epsilon$  are the first to live good lives because they know God
- The ex of resurrection illuminates the character of God.
  - → God is powerful enough to overcome death (demonstrated by Jest brought back to life in the Bible).
  - → God is loving and forgiving he wants humans to enjoy heaven w

'But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also confor as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.' (1 Corinthians 15:2)



## Heaven, Hell (and Purgatory)

Most Christians believe in **heaven**, which is a place where people will be we from the passages about **judgment** and the end of time, Jesus says he will **disciples** in heaven (John 14:1–4). Those writing in the New Testament also life after death, as expressed in 1 Corinthians 5:1–10.

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to per And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going

'For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is it is one d, we have a build made with hands, eternal in the heavens' (2 Contains 5:1 NRSV)

Christians believe that is a desirable place to be; some believe that human states a desirable place to be a desirable place t

'... they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe aw (Revelation: 7:15–17 NRSV)

Most Christians also believe in **hell**, somewhere outside of heaven and awa about judgment Jesus does not make hell sound very nice. It is compared

'"[being thrown out into the darkness], where there will be weeping and gna (Matthew 25:30 NRSV)

Hell has been portrayed in many different ways. In medieval times, 'doom' paintings, portraying final judgment, were common on the walls of churches, to remind Christians that they wanted to go to heaven and not be condemned to the terrors of hell.

However, many Christians today do not believe that hell is a place of physical torture we was believed in medieval times every chieve that hell is the absence of the low even that those who go to top existing altogether.



Jesus taught that sin would cause people to go to hell – and that it was be if people do sin, then the punishment of hell will be terrible.

## 



'If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than hell.' (Matthew 5:29–30)

Some Christians, believe in a place called **purgatory**, where Christians can go their sins before being allowed to enter heaven. Belief in purgatory is taught Catholics **pray** for those they believe to be in purgatory, in the hope of helps However, many other churches, such as the Church of England, teach that be they believe it is not supported by the Bible.

The Catholic Church argues that it is supposed in and Bible. For example, Je cannot be forgiven now, or after the later Catholic Church takes this to a forgiven after death — and the pare not forgiven before death then people to purify the later to be forgiven — in purgatory.

"Who er speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but who the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."

The Catholic **Catechism** also points out that the tradition of praying for the **Old Testament**. If people were already in heaven or hell forever after dead sense to pray for them.

However, it can be argued that sins might be forgiven at judgment without after death, and, especially with belief in resurrection of the body, that pray that God will judge the dead more favourably at a future judgment.

Belief in heaven, hell and purgatory is significant, as it encourages Christian beliefs are also significant because they create boundaries between different beliefs about purgatory held by the Church of England and Catholical Company (1997).

## **Judgment**

**Judgment** is the event at the end of time and/or when each individual perspeople based on what they believed, and whether they lived a good or bad judgment results in people being sent to heaven, hell or purgatory (see the (**Note:** If Christians, such as Catholics, believe in **immerality of the soul** at they believe that people are judged twice – where they die and at the end of

Judgment is important because it is the eternal fate of a person – who or condemned.

Jesus taugh after death people would be judged depending on how they were prepared for God and his Kingdom. He told **parables**, or stories Aesop's fables, to explain what **judgment** and the end of time would be lipparable of the sheep and the goats, and the parable of the ten bridesmaid and the Nicene Creed teach that Jesus will judge humanity at the end of time

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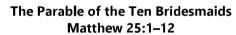


## The parable of the sheep and the goats Matthew 25:31–46 NRSV

Jesus will come back at the end of time and separate the people (sheep) from the bad people (goats). He will gran sheep the 'kingdom' and 'eternal life' because they fed watered him, welcomed him, clothed him, and cared for visited him. The sheep will ask when they did these things for an they did it for him.

He will then tell the goats that they did not care for other and help them. They will be condemned to 'eternal to street street.

Truly I tell you, just a first to one of the least of these who are member me.' (Matthew Could Sv)



Ten bridesmaids were waiting for the bridegroom, but he was delayed, so they five had brought extra oil for their lamps. When the bridegroom (representing extra oil had run out. They had to go to buy some more. When they got back to heaven), everyone else had gone in, but the doors were locked and they were no ready for the kingdom of heaven to come at any time.

It was not just Jesus who taught that people would be judged at the end of believed in judgment and continued to teach about judgment.

'For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.' (2 Co

## Taking it further...

Read more about the end of time: Matthew 24–25, including the Parable of that those who use their gifts will be judged favourably and those who do

Interestingly, when talking about judgement, biblical teachings generally retheir actions and whether they have done good or bad 'llowever, many Chwill be saved and inherit eternal life based on the 'low on the low on their behaviour, and Christical Value that those with faith will be saved.

'For the year have been saved through faith, and this is not your own do not the of works, so that no one may boast.' (Ephesians 2:8–9 NRSV)

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## Importance and Influence Today

Because Christians believe Jesus died so that they could have eternal life, in Those who feel that they are living lives pleasing to God may not fear death it is not the end. The teachings about life after death are important because

'"Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live"' (John 11:25 NR $^\circ$ 

The teachings of judgment in the New Testament also encourage Christians consider a 'good' life (for example, taking care of the hungry and the sick, sheep and the goats, Matthew 25), in order not to 'go to **hell**'. So the teach because they help Christians to make decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be portray the teachings about life after decisions keeping that they will be provided they are also because they are als

Because some Christian and they should focus on the afterlife, belimportant in the should focus on the afterlife, belimportant in the should focus on the afterlife more than human life that the desires, to focus on worshipping God and on the afterlife.

Some Christians interpret...

"No one comes to the Father except through me [Jesus]" (John 14:6 NRSV)

... to mean that only Christians will go to **heaven** – such Christians, therefore, feel that they must believe and practice Christianity in order to go to heaven when they die. This often leads to Christians trying to convert others to Christianity so that they too can experience heaven. This belief is important because it influences Christians' views of non-Christians and also their actions – without such a belief they might not be as concerned with converting others to Christianity.

D love gran

However, other Christians interpret John 14:6 as meaning that no one can except through Christianity, but that people can experience God in other with the selief is important, as those who hold it will feel that people of other and it may prompt them to work with people of other religions for common ultimately want the same things.

## Apocalyptic Ideas in the Early Church

There is evidence that Christians is a Fary Church believed that the world in their lifetime. Indeed to suggest that he believed that the implied that wo have to judge (at the end of time) within the lifetimes

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.' (Matthew 16:27–28 NRSV)

Jesus also gave warning signs of the end of the 'age', especially in Matthew because he says that it would not be the end when the signs occur, but that end of time was coming, and that the signs of the end of the world would contains the signs of the end of the world would contains the signs of the end of the world would contains the signs of the end of the world would contains the signs of the end of the world would contains the signs of the end of the world would contains the signs of the end of the world would contain the world world would contain the world wo

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'Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things hav (Matthew 24:34 NRSV)

The apostles also continued this teaching – many of St Paul's teachings can he believed the world would end soon. For example, he encouraged people not to have children).

'Now concerning virgins, I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opin Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that, in view of the impending crisis, it is you are... I mean, brothers and sisters, the appoints in a has grown short world is passing away.' (1 Corinthians 7:25- 20, 19 32 NRSV)

## Common and Divergent A will about the Second Coming of Christ (

However, the world did not end during the first or second century. We arly Christians may have believed this, Christians today cannot. All Christians believe that the world will end one day, and that Jesus will **judge** humans at the end of their lives and/or at the final judgement. However, Christians today differ in what they believe will happen, and when.

Firstly, Christians have tried to explain how the passages of Jesus' teaching can be re-interpreted so that they are not wrong. This can be done in various ways – they can reinterpret words such as 'generation' to mean a span of time much longer than what humans would normally class as a generation. Some believe that the return Jesus spoke of was spiritual – that he brought his followers the Kingdom of **Heaven** (on Earth) after his death. Some feel that Jesus correctly predicted the beginning of the end of the world – and that the world has just been ending very slowly – for example they may feel he predicted the destruction of the **Temple** in 70CE. Some believe that Jesus' teaching refers to the

immortality of the soul (Christians would not truly 'taste death' as they w

There are many interpretations, and if you are interested, you will find many However, it can be argued that none of them are fully sisfactory. Many mexpect the end of the world in their lifetime, and to not concentrate on this also point to Jesus' teaching that every add not know exactly when the very people would not know when the very would end – so they feel that they

'But a day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, no Father derefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at (Matthew 24:36, 44 NRSV)

However, there are some Christians today who are actively expecting the enhance heard about 'rapture predictions' on the news. There are many group Protestant **evangelicals**. For example, some Afrikaner Calvinists believe the coming after the end of apartheid (racial segregation in South Africa).

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Some Christians who are concerned with the end of the world coming soon believe that when Jesus returns he will rule the Earth for a period of time (see exactly 1000 years, a millennium) before judgement (most mainstream Chrismany believe that Jesus is ruling in heaven now).

There are many different types of millennialism; many believe that the seconderalded by terrible events.

'And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against nation and earthquakes in various places: all this is to the beginning of the (Matthew 24:6–8 NRSV)

Some Christians have so the wars in the Middle East, and are not conceptiving the estimated processary, and even desirable, as they want Jesus believe that Christians will experience a *rapture* – they will be taken up during, or after the Earth reaches the climax of the terrible events (even the world events are the start of the end of the world do not believe that they stage yet).

## **Quick Questions**

- 15) Name **three** examples of places which Christians may believe people
- 16) Describe the concept of life after death within Christianity.



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## Summary for Beliefs and Teac

- ◆ The Christian God is believed to have many characteristics, such as be (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), eternal, transcendent, imniforgiving. He is believed to be a judge. Christianity is monotheistic believe in and worship only one God.
- Many Christians believe in one God, in three Persons: Father, Son and Trinity. Some Christians believe that there is an authority structure with not. Not all Christians believe in the Trinity some feel that Jesus was
- Christians believe that God **created** the world. Accounts of this are four of John. Christians may take from accounts of attain that they are spin God's image, and that they should be after creation. Some Christian are to be interpreted **literal**, it is a chers think they should be interpreted. Christians believe in a characteristic mat Adam and Eve's **sin** caused human
- The property and suffering exists because it is hard to explain and rights, he allows evil and suffering to exist. Believers may questhat their God should not allow natural evil or moral evil. Some Christoffering exist as a consequence of the Fall and original sin.
- Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah (anointed one) who came to They refer to him as 'Lord' and believe he is the Son of God – most of Jesus showed Christians that they should love others, regardless of who the circumstances – agape. Many of Jesus' teachings can be found in Matthew 5–7.
- Many Christians believe that Jesus was the incarnation of God: God in Incarnation, Christians may feel that they know what God wants through they are saved through his sacrifice. Christians believe that Jesus was rose back to life. After being witnessed by his disciples and giving the to heaven. Christians believe that his death and resurrection saved the a relationship with God.
- Christians believe that Jesus brought them salvation by dying for thematoned (made up) for their sin. Christians have different views on whe salvation to a few, or whether it is available to all who seek it and Jesus lives. Many Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled the Jewish law so the saved through Jesus, rather than by following rules. Christians believe of God's grace. Christians believe that all humans need saving because
- Christians have various understandings concerning the afterlife.

  Jesus taught that people would be judge for ueath and that they should be prepared for God's ling. Most Christians believe in heaven and hell and some baseve in purgatory, a place to do penance before the some Christians believe that God will resurn the soul lives on immediately after death and is immortal; some believe in both. Some Christians believe that only Christians will go to heaven, because Jesus is the only way to God, but not all do. Early Christians believed that the world would end very soon, possibly within their lifetime, but many Christians do not expect the imminent end of the world today. However, some Christians do, and believe that Jesus will come back to rule on Earth for a period of time before judgement.

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## **Practices**

Religious practices are very important within Christianity. Christians **worsh** and speak to him through **prayer**. Special practices called **sacraments** are **denominations**. Christians have set celebrations and may make **pilgrimag** are very important to many Christians.

## **Keywords:**

- church/Church has various meanings: a collection of Christians OR a Christians (church) OR the authority in a particular denomination (hurch)
- pilgrimage making a physical journey to rav claser to God
- ♦ worship devotion to God



## Worship

**Worship** is a very broad term covering acts of devotion to God. This often Christianity it also covers things such as asking for forgiveness and learning can be formal or informal, in a group or done individually; so it can vary in

## **Keywords:**

- baptism a sacrament which involves being anointed with, or immersed in life in Jesus
- charismatic in Christianity, a movement which emphases the role of the H
  charismatic may be lively, and open to the Holy Spirit.
- congregation the members of a Church who are not leading a service
- icons important religious images within churches like Orthodox Churches
- **liturgy** set worship; either exact words or a format
- ◆ Lord's Prayer a prayer which Jesus taught his disciples to pray
- revelation experiencing God in a way in which he is seen or heard, or known

### The Structure of Church Services

Most Christian **denominations** hold church services, often on Sunday monwell as at other times. Not all church services follow the same structure – **worship** in different ways. For example, the Roman Catholic mass will different Communion service, and this will differ again from a Greek Orthodare very different from the worship of other dance not be times.

The services may include some and of these worship practices (explained

- Calls to worship and المرابعة المر
- e Hymns sh : ا
- Differe ses of prayers
- A sermon/talk
- Bible readings
- Sacraments e.g. the Eucharist
- Creeds
- Devotion to **icons** and lighting candles

### Taking it further...

Research the structure of the Roman Catholic mass, Anglican Communion servi

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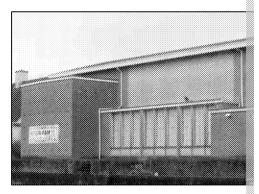


Quaker meetings are less structured than the services of many other denorroom (often in a circle, rather than in rows) and wait in silence reflecting. To say something by the Holy Spirit. Anyone can speak, there is not one peleading the service.

## An Example of Methodist Sunday Morning Worship

Methodist churches start their Sunday mornings in different ways. In many music playing before the service to allow people time for reflection before However, in other churches, tea and coffee will be served before the service 'social occasion'. In either case, before the service begins, notices may be congregation of upcoming events (e.g. extra service meeting groups), events which have occurred (e.g. the success of the chirchest announced – this may be the church' or minister (paid and full-time), a (voluntary) or a minister or people for another church. Often the person announce that the chirchest a short time of silence (a minute or two) before

The service pegin in a number of ways. Often there is a call to worship from the minister/preacher leading the service. This could be a prayer, a Bible verse, or a poem — to get people into the mood to worship. Equally, the minister/preacher may just say something along the lines of, 'It is good to worship God on this sunny/rainy morning.'



The outside of a Met

Alternatively, if the church has a choir, they may sing a song to begin the sitems at any time during a service, as well as joining in with the hymns.)

Often this will be followed by a hymn/worship song, and then by a prayer(s is, and thanking him.

If there are children in the congregation, the minister/preacher may address may tell a story, ask the children questions, or ask the children to help them. This will be linked to some biblical story or religious point, e.g. caring for of another hymn/song, during which the children are likely to leave the church children's groups. Alternatively, in some Method to Jourches, children begand come into the service to share pear to be end. (If there are many children likely to be family worship ervous regularly, maybe once a month, who the whole service, and the likely large at a more appropriate level for them.) If the congregation of the service to illustrate a

After the second hymn, there may be Bible readings. Generally there will be the **Old Testament** and one from the **New Testament**. In some churches, Testament reading, a **Gospel** reading, and another reading from somewher there will be another hymn.

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After this, there will be a sermon or talk – exploring a particular Bible passaginto parts – a response to the Bible readings, and then further points. The plinked their sermon to the Bible readings which the church wanted, or picked with their sermon (the Bible readings may have been set, or suggested, or the things of the choice). Hymns and prayers are also likely to have been chosen to fit we

After the sermon, there is likely to be another hymn/song, then prayers, ask also asking him to help others, and look after the world. Current situations of the congregation may be included. Then there may be a final hymn and bless the congregation.

Often there will be tea and coffee after the se vice and a time for socialising space for reflection, and provide volume as who are happy to pray with per

This is a very rough to re—even within the same church, secretarizes will vary week to week, for example the may be more or fewer hymns and prayers. The Lord's Prayer will usually be included somewhere in the service. There will be an offering — where the congregation can give money to either the church or a nominated charity / charitable project at some point, often during a hymn.

Methodist control the Peace congregation handshake, or 'Peace control to the peace control to

If there is a **baptism**, this will usually take place early in the service, for example address. If it is a Communion service (a service including the Eucharist), the the end of the service, at some point after the sermon. It is usual to have a at least once a month. Services in general can last anywhere from 45 minut they will be shorter if aimed at children and the whole family, or longer if the as baptism and the Eucharist.

Bible readings will usually be read by someone other than the minister/presets be said by others. In the Methodist Church, anyone can read the Bible or leachildren.

## **Purposes of Worship**

Christians **worship** in order to spend time with God. Worship can be in seaside specific time for God, or spending time with the parting day-to-day likely relationship with God.

Christians want to praise a k God, and also ask him to forgive them want to ask God to be a hem in their lives, and to help others.

Christians as want to learn more about God, and about what he wants the they may concentrate on how to live better lives for God.

Some Christians also believe that they receive God's **grace** through worsh the **sacraments** (more on this in the section on *Sacraments* overleaf).

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## Different Forms of Worship – Role and Importance Liturgy

What – *Liturgy* can be used to describe a set service, where specific words followed, but it can refer more generally to a format for worship. The priesthe majority of the service, but there may also be parts where the **congreg** general responses, prayers, or to take part in **creeds**. Many denominations contain their liturgies, such as the Roman Missal (Catholic), Common Worsh Methodist Worship Book. You could research more about these if you was

**When** – A liturgy where everything is set may be used when the service in liturgy for the **Eucharist** is very common, as are **b** and liturgies. There are celebrations, such as Easter and Christmas, ard fey arts such as marriages are

## Why -

- Such litturies are purpose of unifying Church practice, as the said difference of uniform practice,
- Having set words can also help to unify Christians who attend different attend a service at a different Church with the same liturgy, they will be same way.
- Participating in the same liturgies can allow congregations to participal what is coming, and consequently do not need to try hard to understal already know and understand it.
- Having a set service can make celebrations and sacraments seem speciputting up decorations can help to make people feel festive; the service reminds people of what they are celebrating, and that it is special.

## **Liturgical Worship**

**What** – Liturgical worship involves a set format for worship, though each service will be different. A service might, for example, include a set number of hymns or songs; a sermon or a talk; prayers of different types; a set number of Bible readings; meditation; focusing on **icons**; or other elements of worship. However, these hymns, prayers and readings etc. will vary between different services with the same structure. Not all liturgical services will contain all elements. Liturgical services can contain liturgies.

When – Such services will be common at man, a use of there is no particular celebration, or sacrament be a pleurated. Sometimes part of a service will follow a liturgical on the outer a part of the outer which involves a sacrament.

However, naticular elements are necessary to qualify a service as liturgical. Services in the Quaker Church, a Protestant denomination, which involve sitting in silence and waiting to be inspired by the Holy Spirit they still involve a structure.

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## Why -

- Churches often perform services according to a structure which their
- Churches often use a structure, or structures, which appeal to their congregation to follow the service easily and know what is happening
- Liturgical structure allows services to be planned in advance.
- Liturgical structure allows all desired elements (e.g. prayers and a sern without being forgotten.

## **Non-liturgical Worship**

**What** – Non-liturgical worship is where there is no set structure to worship spontaneous.

When – Spontaneous, personal worship of 'aurgical; where an individual through song, or prayer, for example 'awever, some churches or groups a people talk or pray spontage at the service has not been street

## Why –



 Some denominations choose to have non-liturgical services because the genuine if the structure is planned and there is less flexibility to worship wants to.

Some people will class Quaker worship as non-liturgical because no hymns planned in advance. Some Pentecostal Churches, Protestant Churches which Holy Spirit, are non-liturgical, and worship with less structure. This is because should worship as they are led to by the Holy Spirit. When they worship, the Holy Spirit, who they believe will tell them what to pray, and how to praise

## **Informal Worship**

**What** – Informal worship is worship which is more relaxed in some sense. Different aspects of worship can be thought to be informal – worship might be said to be informal if people wear informal rather than smart dress; if the worship is non-liturgical and spontaneous; or if it is held at home, or another setting, rather than at church.

Informal worship is sometimes **charismatic** – lively, and emphasising the role of the Holy Spirit. Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians especially (who are oftended) hope to be inspired during worship by the Jory Spirit. This can take different forms – Chai that 5 may feel moved directly by the Holy Spirit to the formation aparticular subject to others, or to **pray** are that way. They may also expect to feel moved employed employed employed in the spirit during worship. This is more difficult to explain, as this is subjective. Broadly, Christians may experience feelings of joy and elation, as well as feelings of reassurance – that God loves them, that 'everything will be

of reassurance – that God loves them, that 'everything will be alright' and the following his teachings. One sign that Christians feel moved this way, or was raising one (or both) hands in the air during singing.

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Some charismatic worship involves Christians who believe that they practise **prophesy**, or talk in tongues (a spiritual language, which some can interpressor work **miracles** through the Spirit. Some Christians claim to be able to heal physical ailments) through the Spirit – often this is done by placing hands healing (often on their head or shoulders) and praying over them.

**When** – Informal worship can be held at any time. It may be held on a Supeople desire to worship in this way, or at any other time when people was

## Why -

- Many Christians like to see God as a friend, who the do not have to be more comfortable with informal worship.
- Christians often want to worship the they are not at church served the same style of worship as the field by a minister.
- Many Christians (2006) a worship is better if charismatic lively and inf
  They for the styles of worship allow them to connect better with
  his will

'God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth

'For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.' (Romans 8:14)

Many Christians feel that worship must involve the influence of the Holy Sprommunication with God works. Some feel that they must wait to feel that the Holy Spirit is guiding them, but they may not always realise it.

### **Private Worship**

**What** – Private worship is any worship done individually. This includes wo on one's own; going into a church for private prayer; and sometimes within are occasions for personal worship (sometimes there is space given for private or at times of prayer).

When – Private worship can be done at any time, whenever someone wan

## Why -

- Most Christians feel that Christianity is a personal faith. They want to relationship with God, and choose which work or actices they want
- Christians cannot always attend public word when they feel like word

time in particular devotion, in order to be able to pray privately and time in particular devotion, in order to be able to build a personal relations need to take to God about personal issues in their lives and understand we to them.

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## **Public Worship**

**What** – Public worship is worship done in a group open to anyone. This in different styles.

**When** – Public worship is usually organised, such as church services or other it can take place if a group of people decide to start worshipping together

## Why -

- Many Christians feel that group worship helps to focus Christians, and worship with others to be encouraged in faith, and to encourage other
- Many Christians feel that worship should be open to all the Christian
- Christians feel that Jesus promoted public worship

'For where two or three are gathere and name, I am there among them.'

Some Christians interpret Alechew 18:20 to mean that public (or group) we worship by the means that Jesus will be with them. However, others exclude Jesus mg with an individual worshipping privately, it just says the during group worship.

## Significance of Worship

**Worship** is significant to Christians because they want to maintain and dew Worship allows them to praise and thank him; ask him for help; repent of the learn about God's will; and concentrate on becoming better Christians.

## Taking it further...

Find out more about the style of worship used in one particular denomination, and

Christians from Churches such as the Catholic Church are likely to feel that **sacraments** and liturgical worship, are particularly important. The Catholic should take part in sacraments, and **liturgies** help to explain the purpose obeen authorised by the Catholic Church as appropriate ways of worshipping worship, and practices associated with it, are significant because they pass God's **grace**. Catholics will also worship God privately, and this may be not the Catholic Church does not see this as a substitute for liturgical worship.

Christians from the Church of England or other Protestant Churches such a have strong feelings in favour of liturgical worship, like the Catholic Church. Some feel that liturgical worship is important because it helps Christians to different individual practices are significant – Christian and a nould not forget for example, and so liturgical worship is significant because it allows Christians, and Christians attending liturgical process do not have to be creative. God – the worship is preparation from Some such Protestants will also politurgical, informal and process are worship – feeling that it is significant because form of worship is individuals.

Some Christians do not see liturgical worship as significant at all. Some feet practices (other than prayer) which need to be carried out in order to have that formally-structured worship does not help Christians to reach God. So liturgical worship as significant, because if they wait for God the Holy Spirit worship (charismatic worship), then they will be worshipping authentically they are called by God to do (such as singing) as significant because they anot because the practices should be carried out for the sake of it.

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## **Worship Practices**

Different worship practices are incorporated into worship services of all st

Sermon/talk – many Church **denominations** listen to a priest or other wors about a particular passage in the Bible and/or a religious theme such as saltake place in a formal service, but it could be spontaneous.

**Prayer** – there are many forms of prayer, through which Christians talk to can be ordered in a formal service, but Christians can pray whenever they informal and individual.

Singing – through this Christians can praise God and reflect on religious the place in structured worship, but Christia and sing to praise God individual

**Sacrament** The Parying importance in different Churches. Some feel that G Parying importance in different Churches. Some feel that sacraments are a way for Christians to commit to God and remember what he has done for them. These are associated with more formal worship, and often take place within a **liturgy**.

Meditation – Christians may meditate on God, the Bible or their religion, or on their own lives, among other things. This is more likely to be personal built into structured worship.

Focusing on **icons** – in some churches, such as Orthodox Churches, Christia worship through paintings of Jesus and the saints, as they feel these help the divine; this can be during worship, or at home individually.

### Use of the Bible

Reading the Bible – this is done because it holds God's teachings and Christians feel that God speaks to them through it. This can be done in a formal service, or informally in a small group or privately/individually.

In most church services in mainstream denominations, the Bible will play some part in worship. Many services will have Bible readings from the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament** are remon is preached, it is often based on the Bible readings on their faith and what they can learn from the same hymns and worship songs are based on the Bible readings, which provide Christians another who promet to these. Bible readings in church are used to teach Chastans about God, and also about what God wants them to do with their lives. Some churches follow a lectionary; a set list of which Bible passages are to be read at which times. In more non-liturgical/informal services someone might read a Bible passage they feel has relevance to them at that time.

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Individuals may read the Bible at home, to build a relationship with God. Find a Bible passage to read that helps them with something current in the hold Bible study groups to look at Bible passages in more depth, or may swith help from scholarly books.

Christians may read the Bible to feel comfort from knowing that God cares humans. Much of the Bible can be used to reassure Christians; 1 Corinthia that God:

'Will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will that you may be able to endure it.' (1 Corinthians 10:13 NRSV)

The Bible also shows other people in difficult atomics, which can show Chalone in experiencing difficulties.

Christians also use the control of guidance to help them to know decisions, all conowing the example of Jesus, and commandments we follow exact mandments, and others will try to apply broader principles

## Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Different Christians attribute different amounts of authority to the Bible in authority. Generally speaking, traditional and **evangelical** Protestants attribible than other types of Christians.

Protestantism began as a movement which was trying to reform the Catholic disagreed with many things which the Catholic Church was doing, including given the ultimate authority – more authority than the Bible. Early Protestal should be returned to the Bible, as the word of God – the Bible should be language which people spoke (it had previously been in Latin), and people themselves and use it to help them to live Christian lives.

Catholics do regard the Bible as containing authority, but the priesthood a ultimately the Pope have the ultimate authority – the Pope is seen as God's representative on Earth. The Catholic Church emphases the authority of the Church (the leadership of priests and Pope), not because it does not think that the Bible has authority, but because it feels that the Church knows how to interpret the Bible, and so ordinary people should listen to the Church, rather than accidentally misinterpreting the Bible themselves. This is firmly linked to tradition – the Catholic Church emphases the authority of the tradition of the Church within Christianity. This is particle arly relevant when considering what the Catholic Church would classified arly relevant when morals in recent years – the Church tries and the Catholic values.

Pentecostals and Charica Salans, more modern Protestants, and also Quakers, see that as more authoritative than the Bible. They feel that God of Jence them individually, and such influence should be given greater authority, but feel that God speaking to them directly in the present carries more authority than God's word recorded hundreds of years ago. Many Colleges Christian **revelations** have authority, as they teach Christians about God's word recorded hundreds of years ago.

As well as these sources of authority, Christians may also consult their reasonaking decisions – trying to work out for themselves what they think/feel

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## **Quick Questions**

17) Give three types of worship.

## Now Try This...

18) Explain why different types of worship have different significance for different Christians.







## **Sacraments**

## **Keywords:**

- altar a table on which a sacrifice is made; in Christianity, where the bread and Eucharist, remembering Jesus' sacrifice, are blessed
- baptism a sacrament which involves being anointed with, or immersed in in Jesus
- conversion when someone starts to follow a religion after having followed had no religion
- Eucharist sacrament which involves sharing bread and wine in remembra Supper. Literally means 'thanksgiving'
- ◆ ordained someone who is a member of t' e c. r y, such as a priest or a v has authority to perform services and a inister sacraments
- real presence the beliable and was somehow present in the bread and
- ♦ sacrament a no an important worship practice which has even higher such Can pac and Orthodox Churches
- trans tiation the Catholic belief that the bread and wine at the Euclidean body and blood of Jesus

## Role and Meaning of Sacraments in Different Denominations – Comp

**Sacraments** are a few really important practices within Christianity. Christians feel that sacraments are an important part of their Christian life and help them to commit to God and worship him. The word 'sacrament' comes from a Latin word meaning a soldier's oath, and so, from its original meaning, a sacrament is something a Christian does as a commitment to God.

## **Roman Catholicism**

Some Christians, such as Catholics, believe that there is spiritual power with Catholic Church holds that God's grace is given *through* the practice of the for this purpose.

The Catholic Church observes seven sacraments: **Eucharist**, **Baptism**, Matrix Orders, Penance, and Anointing of the Sick. You could research the last five

## **Orthodox Christianity**

The Orthodox Church observes the same seven sacraments as the Catholic and also refers to them as 'mysteries'. It also holds many actions taken by example, some Orthodox Christians feel that by a sacrament. The Ortal as a way of communicating with God, the same house has been sacrament as the Catholic and also refers to them as 'mysteries'. It also holds many actions taken by a example, some Orthodox Christians feel that by a sacrament. The Ortal as a way of communicating with God, the same seven sacraments as the Catholic and also refers to them as 'mysteries'.

Anglicanism/the Church and some other Protestant Denormous Protestant do the strong do not observe seven sacraments. Many Baptism as a seven sacraments (e.g. the Anglican Church and the Methodist Church Baptism and Eucharist as sacraments, other rituals not considered sacramerriage). However, not all 'Catholic' sacraments, such as penance, would

### **Variation in Protestant Denominations**

There is variation within Protestant Churches; for example, some Lutheran (Penance) as a sacrament, whereas Quakers and the Salvation Army do not have baptisms or practice the Eucharist at all), as they do not see them Christians to rely on outward **symbols**.

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Some Protestant Christians see sacraments as symbolic, rather than having Protestants feel that sacraments are an outer *sign* of God's grace, or that the commitment to God, rather than God's grace given to humanity. So sacraments symbolically in some Protestant Churches; however, some Protestants, such similar attitude to sacraments as Catholics.

## Baptism and Its Role and Significance for Christians in Their Lives

Christians practice **baptism** because Jesus was baptised (see Matthew 3:13 him for his **ministry** – and commanded his disciples to baptise followers in

'And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he cam in from the water, sudopened to him and he saw the Spirit of God in the land grown heaven said, "This is my Son "by "To lo in, with whom I am well please (Matthew 3:16–17 NRSV)

[The Great Comuse of all nations, but the Foundation of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey coming you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the (Matthew 28:19–20 NRSV)

Some Christians think that baptism is particularly important because Jesus baptised (and believe) will be saved. Some feel that he implied that those be saved.

'The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not be condemned.' (Mark 16:16 NRSV)

Baptism involves being anointed with, or immersed entirely in water. Anoing of water being poured over the head. The former is normally done if infantatter if an adult is being baptised. Baptism is important because it shows the parents on their behalf, wishes to commit to the **faith** and begin a new life. Churches, such as the Methodist Church, allow people to choose to have the infants, or to wait so they can choose adult baptism for themselves when the

Baptism is significant because it symbolises a new life following Jesus, and hence means receiving eternal life through accepting his sacrifice. Christians also hope to receive the Holy Spirit (God living in their hearts) to help them in their life with God. Many Christians feel that baptism marks entry into the Christian community, and so it is also significant for this reason. It is important because Christians believe to those who are baptised can expect to have their sins for the Note: While many Christians associate removal of the Cerving salvation with baptism, many also believe that a larguages not guarantee this – someone must live as a Chapting be saved.

## Common and Divergent Attitudes to Practice and Meaning

## **Infant Baptism**

**Denominations** such as Catholicism and Anglicanism practice infant baptischildren into the Church, and follow this with confirmation when a Christian the faith. If infant baptism, also called christening, is practiced, water for the receptacle which could hold a bowl of water. In some churches, the font is church, to show that baptism is a spiritual entering into the Church, the box

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denominations believe that it is baptism which welcomes people into the important for all children to be baptised to make them part of the commun passages which state that those who are baptised will be saved, and want soon as possible for this purpose.

Usually, the child will be baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with water poured over their head at least three times, as the priest/vicar mentions each Person of God. (Some Catholic babies will be immersed in the font.) The children may be signed with the sign of the cross (on their forehead) to show that, through baptism, they now belong to Jesus. Parents and godparents will be asked to make the child in the Christian faith Andread at least three times, as the priest to raise the child in the Christian faith Andread at least three times, as the priest pour section of God.

In did not be heave would limb

There have been continued sies linked to infant baptism. Some schools will been bapt give children who have been baptised places first. This have want to aptise their child (because they do not want them to have a Country them to choose baptism for themselves when they are older). It who take baptism seriously and do not want people to get their children baschool. This is a wider issue – many parents in Britain get their children baschool, not because of religious faith, which can be frustrating for Christians.

## Believers' Baptism

Denominations such as the Baptists only practice believers', or adult, baptise enough to make their own decision to commit to Christianity, after growing experiencing **conversion**, seeing this as more reflective of Jesus' baptism and Bible. Christians will be asked to affirm their faith and promise to follow Jesus water. Many Christians feel that baptism should only be practised when so their own decision to commit to Jesus, and that infant baptism should not young to make their own expression of faith. They emphasise that Bible palso involve belief, and being saved through belief, and they feel that baptise effective.

## **Biblical Evidence**

Some Bible passages provide material with which to debate the authority on the **New Testament**, some baptisms of whole households are reported.

'... he [a jailer] and his entire family were bastiz, 'without delay... he and that he had become a believer in Ga. (x) is 16:33–34 NRSV)

Some argue persons such as Acts 16 show that infants were baptised infant bapt as around in the Early Church and has a biblical basis. How households or families mentioned may not have contained any children. This. In Acts 16:333–4, all of the jailer's family were baptised and all of his author of the account would not have meant to imply that infants rejoiced lack the understanding to be able to rejoice. Therefore, it is more consistent the group who were baptised and also rejoiced contained no infants, than rejoiced, or that the group who were baptised contained infants, and these when the author talked about rejoicing.

# 



## Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Its Role and Significance for Chris

The **Eucharist** is the sharing of bread and wine which represent Jesus' body and blood, which he sacrificed on the cross for the forgiveness of **sins**. Jesus told his **disciples** to do this to remember him when he shared bread and wine with them at the Last **Supper**, and to remember his sacrifice which would bring them **salvation**; many Christians feel that it is important to celebrate the Eucharist because Jesus commanded it. Taking part in the Eucharist is significant to Christians because it reminds them that they are saved through Jesus' **crucifixion** and **resurrection**; Jesus' sacrifice means that they are free to have a relation by with God. The Eucharist has other names, including Haly Communion and the Lord's Supper.



Brea

vk read, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and 'Then ha "This "This "Ocy, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."' ()

'While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he b and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which forgiveness of sins."' (Matthew 26:26-28 NRSV)

Some Christians believe that Jesus' sacrifice was not for all humanity (as Je for 'many' – but not all. This aligns with beliefs about salvation being **prec** section on *The Concept of Salvation* above). However, others feel that Jes for all, but not all would accept it.

'He said to them, "This is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured (Mark 14:24 NRSV)

St Paul (in 1 Corinthians 11:23–26) expressed that taking part in the Eucha Christian faith – Christians are expressing (as well as reinforcing) their belief

'For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:26 NRSV)

## Common and Divergent Attitudes to Practice and Meaning

## Similarities between Catholic and Anglican Euchain

Bread and wine are blessed by the member of the cargy presiding at the congregation receives the bread array and the altar. The bread and wire someone **ordained**; by prinking acacons (and bishops).

The Eucha y so prace within a set liturgy. In Catholicism, this is the words with egational responses, and set prayers. Creeds are also incl hymns, or words to music. There will also be a sermon, Bible readings and vary. During the service, the congregation will be asked to confess their sin that their sins are forgiven.

Wafers are usually used instead of normal bread. Among other things, cru dropped this way (and because the bread represents Jesus, it is important) wine is usually given in a big cup, called a chalice. A blessing is usually avail wish to receive the bread and wine.

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### **Catholic Eucharist Details**

Within some churches, such as the Catholic Church, any bread and wine legicalled reserved **sacrament**. The bread and wine are stored safely in a box contains the containing the containin

Catholics believe in **transubstantiation**; that the bread and wine in the Euchhe body and blood of Jesus when blessed. This is one reason why it needs consumed immediately. The Eucharist is particularly important to Catholics sacrifice again, every time they celebrate it. This is because they interpret Johnson and wine *are* his body and blood. Most Catholics will not receive the service at a Church of another **denomination**, because the beliefs about the different. Belief in transubstantiation is the main difference between Catholicans do not believe in transubstantiation

In the Catholic Church some musical first Communion Services

### Anglican ris 🗸 cails

In some Ar churches someone who is not ordained, but has been trawith the distribution.

Some Churches, such as the Anglican Church, believe in the **real presence** spiritually in the Eucharist.

Some Anglican churches expect those receiving the Eucharist to be confirmation, but not all do, and many allow those of other denominations their own churches to receive it when in an Anglican Church.

### **Other Denominations**

There is a lot of variation in the practice of the Eucharist in other denomination

In the Baptist Church, Baptists are all handed bread and wine in their seats the same time, to show unity in Jesus. (Small individual glasses are used for

The Church of Scotland passes the bread and wine of the Eucharist from not the congregation.

The Methodist Church uses non-alcoholic wine and normal bread (many de

In the Orthodox Church, the (normal) bread and wing a given mixed tog

Many Christians (e.g. some modern Practice) and see the bread and wine as **symbolic**, but not actually, it any way, the body and blood of Jesus – unlike strict and the bread and wine represent Jesus' words symbolic that the bread and wine represent Jesus' body and blood. In any denominations it is a personal choice whether to receive the Eucharist or not and confirmation is not necessary.

Do r der

### **Quick Questions**

- 19) State three things which happen during infant baptism.
- 20) Describe the Eucharist.

# 



### Prayer

**Prayer** is communication between Christians and God. Christians believe that he may answer, possibly directly through a **vision**, or indirectly by **ins** or an event which happens in their lives, and this makes it significant. Prayeservices, but they can be said at any time.

### **Keywords:**

- ◆ crucifix a cross with Jesus on
- **inspiration** an indirect communication from God to humans that they be
- rosary a beaded necklace with a cross or crucifix attached

### Impact and Importance of Prayer

Christians feel that prayer is your portant to maintain a relationship with God, and because the party of pray helps Christians to rely on God for help and got received also significant because it fulfils Jesus' command (party). Individual prayers are important because they allow Christians direct contact with God without the need to attend church every time they want to worship.

Prayer is an important part of group worship, because it means that God is definitely involved in the worship. Christians often feel reassured that if many Christians pray for something, then God will act on it. Praying as a group is also an easy way for Christians to worship together, including Christians who may observe different practices. Praying during worsh bring important issues in their everyday lives to God, and not to struggle by

### Different Types and Uses of Prayer

Different types of **prayers** can be said depending on what a Christian wants Psalms (a book in the Bible) are good models for Christian prayer, and example can be found there. Prayer is significant in allowing Christians to praise and forgiveness and help for themselves and others. These prayers are useful per Christian communities.

**Adoration** – praising God and marvelling at his creation and his work in the to let God know what he means to them because they love him.

Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of the padings. The Lord in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and I without exults, and with my sor (Psalm 28:6–7 NRSV) (adoration of I in this sgiving)

Thanksgiving by Saceful to God for what he has done for humanity personally, because Christians want to let God know that they are great the same of the control of of the

**Confession** – telling God that one is sorry, and what for, and asking for for believe they have acted against God's will, because they want to apologise

'Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have Lord our God...' (Psalm 106:6, 47 NRSV) (confession and asking God to save

# 



**Supplications** – asking God for something (for oneself), when Christians fee assistance/support. They may ask for help with passing exams, or to be cur Sometimes Christians say supplications on behalf of other people.

**Intercessions** – asking God to help others, when Christians know of others individual, they are highly changeable and personal. Christians may often politicians in the world and to guide politicians, because they believe he can many prayers of intercession will be very individual; for example, 'Please God, help my mother to find a new job'. Christians will someone in need because they want God's help.

'Praying in the Spirit' – when a Christian prays, feeling that they are being This may be more common in charismatic wersh

**Chants** – prayers spoken or sail at the joint. These can have a variety of pokey phrase several time of the storce a message and allow Christians to **med** unaccompute by soluments, with all voices singing the same notes, and the such chant of Gregorian Chant which is sung during the Mass (Catholic **E**) and asks him to grant **salvation**. Incorporating this into the Mass allows Christolieve God has granted them salvation through Jesus, if they accept this, and will not abandon them. Due to its repetitive nature, chanting can be a contempt of focus on worship rather than memorising a complex harmony. Some Gregorian chanting reduces blood pressure!

Meditational Prayers – reflecting on God, to help deepen one's relationship with him. Catholics often pray with the help of a rosary, a beaded necklace with a cross or crucifix attached. Holding the beads reminds them of which prayers to pray and helps them to focus. Praying with the rosary can be an aid to meditation. There are some set prayers which can be said with the rosary, including prayers affirming faith and confessing sin. One rosary prayer, the Hail Mary, is said in devotion to Mary, and because Catholics want her to speak to God for them.

Hail Mary, full the Lord is we blessed art the and blessed of Holy Mary, M pray for us so now and at the

**Grace** – asking God to bless food at meal times and/or thanking him for it a way of remembering God's goodness regularly. It is an opportunity to goodness to pray with family and friends – whoever is sharing the meal.

### The Lord's Prayer

The **Lord's Prayer** is very important and paintened of the beautiful of the person and confession. It also features submission to God's the person and others (supplications and intercessions). These are Christian prayers, as many Christians want to ask God for strength and guid the model prayer because they want to have a relationship with God in the Prayer is used in many church services to unite Christians in a common prayby Christians individually when they want to strengthen their relationship with God in the prayer is used in many church services to unite Christians in a common prayby Christians individually when they want to strengthen their relationship with God in the prayer is used in many church services to unite Christians in a common prayby Christians individually when they want to strengthen their relationship with God in the prayer is used in many church services to unite Christians in a common prayby Christians individually when they want to strengthen their relationship with God in the prayer is used in many church services to unite Christians in a common prayby Christians individually when they want to strengthen their relationship with God in the prayer is used in many church services to unite Christians in a common prayby Christians individually when they want to strengthen their relationship with God in the prayer is used in many church services to unite Christians in a common prayby Christians in a com

### **Activity**

Read Matthew 6:5–15 to get the full context for the Lord's Prayer in **Extension:** Compare to the version of the Lord's Prayer in Luke 11:1–4

# 



When teaching the Lord's Prayer, Jesus also teaches that prayer should be done for show. He tells the disciples to pray sincerely for what they need need, so they do not need to use fancy words. Jesus warns that if Christians God will not forgive them.

"Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your was it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debt debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil

### Types of Prayer - Common and Divergent Emphases

There are different types of **prayer**. Some prayers <u>as a prayers</u>, and some are more *informal* types of prayer.

Set Prayers – Set prayers are ray is such have exactly the same words extime they are used, or ' is a such structure – the same prayer will be used different Change and set prayers are prayed on many different occasion for example ord's Prayer. There are also set prayers for particular occasions of days, sometimes called a 'collect'. Others may have some set words but places where alterations can be made, such as praying for others and adding in relevant names; or they may have no set words but a set structure, such as confessing sins and then asking for forgiveness.

Set prayers can be used when Christians do not know what to pray, or when want to pray something particular and know a prayer which expresses this we church services. Some set prayers are used because Christians believe they of Jesus told his disciples to pray in the way he taught them to in the Lord's Prayoften have their own set prayers which express the things they feel it importantly they are used. Many have their own service prayer books – you could resolve the prayer books – you co

**Important!** Set prayer in general is sometimes referred to as liturgical prayers. Some Christians only refer to specific set prayers as liturgical prayers – the (denominational) prayers, included in liturgies, and are often connected to

Some, especially the Catholic Church, will think that set prayers are particulated been taught by Jesus, other sections of the Bible, and the Church. They feel communicate what is in these prayers to God. Set prayers can also be significant because they know that other Christians pray these prayers, and so praying connected to the Christian community.

**Informal Prayers** – However, Christians can pray and in g to God, and may types of prayer without planning this, or just have a conversation with God informal prayer. An example would be a proving a conversation with currently in their life. Christians can use informal prayer whenever they want this type of prayer whenever they want to tall personal types of prayer whenever they can be better in these circumstances be set prayers and, and set prayers will not contain details personal to the

Some Christians, such as liberal Protestants, feel that informal prayer is part relationship with God should be personal – some see praying set prayers as are not personal and so have less meaning (in their opinion).

**Important!** Informal prayer is sometimes called 'extempore' prayer – this without being prepared.

# 



### **Different Interpretations**

Not all Christians agree on how **prayer** within worship should work.

Some Christians feel that women should not be allowed to lead prayers in **evangelical** Christians. They feel that St Paul commanded women not to seed leading public prayers would be included in this. (Some who feel that worklead worship do accept women leading prayers.)

On the other hand, many Christians, for example many Protestant **denomi**Methodists, have no problem with women participating in public prayer, or
feel that Paul's teaching is out-of-date; and/or that Paul's teaching is out-of-date; and/or that Paul's teaching is out-of-date; and/or that Paul's tributed; and/or that Paulicular group of women in the factor of Lury – who may not have been ed
women ever.

'... wo nould be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to specificate, as the law also says. If there is anything they desire to know, lethome. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.' (1 Corinthians 14)

Some feel that prayer should be very controlled, as St Paul encouraged ord feel that if God influences them to be joyful, prayer can be very enthusiast work, and God deserves enthusiasm.

'So, my friends, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues, done decently and in order.' (1 Corinthians 14:39–40 NRSV)

### **Quick Questions**

- 21) Give three types of prayer.
- 22) Outline the Lord's Prayer and its use.



# 



## The Role and Importance of Pilgrimage

### **Keywords:**

- monastic relating to monks; men who remain unmarried and devote their living in religious communities
- pilgrimage making a physical journey to draw closer to God

### Concept and General Purpose of Pilgrimage

**Pilgrimage** usually involves a physical journey which is undertaken to become spiritually closer to God Pilgrimage is an opportunity for Christians to occasion and develop their faith, and this was they aim to do while on pilgrimage.

Christians thoose to make a pilgrimage to anywhere, but he are many popular pilgrimage sites, and often an important part of pilgrimage is interacting with other pilgrims who have similar reasons for pilgrimage.



A procession as

Pilgrimage is not only a Christian practice and has been going on for thousimportant early in Christianity because Christians wanted to visit places Jesuvisited, and other important locations within early Christianity. As Christian pilgrimage sites also spread further afield, and are visited for many different

### Significance of Places people go on Pilgrimage

There are different things that are special about different pilgrimage sites. being special include:

- They are places where Jesus lived, taught, died and rose.
- They have a lot of Christian history they were important places in the Churches and Christian sites.
- They are places where visions have been seen.
- They are sites of healing.
- They house Christian communities or they are places people come togeth

# Examples of Christian Pilgrimage and Their Progress Lourdes

Lourdes in France is a **pilgrima** and which is particularly important to Calbecause a girl called Propagation and the nineter personal particularly important to have seen **visions** of Jesus' most the nineter personal particular to have come to Lourdes to pay where she had to Bernadette, and also in search of healing. The vision Bernadette to dig into the ground, and the spring of water which came for healing properties – thousands of people have claimed to have been healed other medical conditions at Lourdes. The Catholic Church recognises Lourdesupports people making pilgrimages there.

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### **Jerusalem**

Jerusalem has always been a significant pilgrimage site for Christians because become closer to Jesus through walking where he walked. Jerusalem is espis where Jesus was condemned to death, and he would have been **crucifie** been **resurrected** in the surrounding area. Pilgrims can see the remains of would have worshipped, and in the surrounding area are also Bethlehem, hordan where he was **baptised**, among other places of interest. Pilgrims in visiting important sites, such as the Western Wall of the Temple (which representation), and places which they believe Jesus visited, as well as many considered that they believe Jesus to since the time of Jesus. Some will walk the route that they believe Jesus to

### Walsingham

Walsingham is in Norfolk in England. It is in part to Christians who place Jesus' mother, Mary. A vision was a worbuild a replica of the head and a specific family – this house is no longer standard Orthodorum human have shrines to Mary here. Some feel that it is sifeel closer by there. Pilgrims can come to pay devotion to her at the

### Rome

Rome is the capital of Italy. It was significant in early Christianity because preached there. It became a significant area for early Christianity, especially became Christian. Over the years many important Christian buildings have go to visit these. Rome also, geographically, contains the separate state of the Pope (the bishop of Rome) and the centre of the Catholic Church. Managinificant to visit the Vatican, and this is especially important for Catholics.

### Activity

Find out more about two of these pilgrimage place

### Impact of Pilgrimage on Individuals and for Communities

Jews went on **pilgrimage** to Jerusalem, where God was thought to reside in Christians feel that they should go on pilgrimage, as the Jews did, to become

'Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the festival of unleavened bread [Passover], at the festival of weeks, and (Deuteronomy 16:16 NRSV)

'Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for 'Now stival of the Passov years old, they went up as usual for the fest 'Now in the festival was end the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerus 'Now busins parents did not know it.'

Others will feel that this is a swish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom, and as Christians do not celeb all Jewish custom and as Christians do not celeb al

However, there is also evidence of 'Christian' pilgrimage in the Gospel of M men travelled to pay their respects to Jesus as they believed that he would today make similar pilgrimages – to draw near to Jesus and pay devotion to

'In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? Frising, and have come to pay him homage." (Matthew 2:1–2 NRSV)

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When Jesus was on pilgrimage in Jerusalem he used it as an opportunity to of scripture, and to teach. Some Christians will use their pilgrimages for the Jesus' pilgrimage as a model for theirs – they may work on their **faith** indivibuild faith within their own Christian community.

'After three days they found him [Jesus] in the temple, sitting among the teast asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understant (Luke 2:46–47 NRSV)

Pilgrimage is important for communities which live at pilgrimage sites. Some able to spend more time focused on God because of forey they receive from

### Common and Divergent Attitules while Importance of Pilgrimages to

Many Christians do feet to algrimage is important to Christians today. So faith has the resultinened by visiting a special place. Some feel better about on are also king him at pilgrimage sites. Some communities are able to and can deepen their faith as a group.

Catholics are more likely to deem pilgrimages important because of the places visited, e.g. somewhere Jesus or the apostles lived, or where a vision has been seen. Some Catholics journey to particular sites because they are thought to be places of healing.

Pas Do you think place can make y you think that meaningful

Not all Christians believe places are important in themselves; many Protestants do not feel that geographical locations hold any spiritual importance. Protestants are more likely to view pilgrimage as important if it is a means to spend time **worshipping** privately or with other Christians. Some feel that meeting and sharing with other like-minded Christians is important.

Some Christians do not think that pilgrimage is important for Christians today, because they feel that they can spend time developing their relationship with God without travelling.

They may not see the point of spending time a income worshipping somewhere else when they do so at home.



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Zig Zag Education

## Quick To id

- 23) Outline the concept of pilgrimage.
- 24) Give three reasons why Christians may go on pilgrimage.

## The Role and Importance of Celebration

Celebrations are very important to Christians. The whole Church year is builtime building up to celebrations. Two of the most important are Christmas

### **Keywords:**

- ◆ Annunciation the announcement of the angel Gabriel to Mary that she w
- ♦ Immaculate Conception the doctrine that Mary was conceived without or
- ◆ Paschal Candle a special symbolic candle used in some church services, i
- vigil staying awake (often at night) for a reason, such as meditation or pra
- virgin birth the belief that Mary was a virgin when gave birth to Jesus conventionally, but by the Holy Spirit

### **Christian Celebrations**

Much of the archaetas classed as 'ordinary the archaetas are being celebrated

The main festivals in the Church year are Christmas and Easter.

Christmas is preceded by advent (the time leading up to Christmas) and followed by Epiphany – which celebrates the wise men's visit to Jesus in western Christianity and Jesus' baptism in the Orthodox Church – and the rest of Christmastide, the period after Christmas. Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth.

Easter is preceded by Lent (the time of preparation before Easter), and is also linked to Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension). Easter celebrates Jesus' resurrection.

# Ordinary Time Aspuns Aining

This diagram shows the Church ough the Catholic Church nriumas and Easter and particular

### **Christmas**

Origin of Christmas –
Synopsis of Biblical Accounts of Christ mas and Associated Church Teaching

Both the Gospels of Matter and Luke contain birth narratives and they do happened Luke Sorn, so this combines the main points from both

A woman can Mary received a visit from an angel telling her that she had would have a baby. This is called the **Annunciation**. Mary was not sure how because she was a virgin, but the angel told her that the baby would be colloseph, Mary's fiancé, found out that she was pregnant, and was going to an angel appeared to him in a dream and explained.



Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem for a census (to be counted), many citizens he had. There were no rooms available, so they stayed in a stay were visited by shepherds, who had been told by angels that the **Me**ss

'But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you go the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in

Three wise men travelled from the East following a star which they believed with King of the Jews. They asked King Herod where they might find him. Herod's Bethlehem. Herod was worried about there being and a king, and asked the they had found the Messiah. The wise men also visual sesus and his parents, not to go back to Herod. The visit of the men is celebrated at Epiphany, the January. Herod decided at the male babies within a certain area in or Jesus. Mary and loss of caped with Jesus to Egypt, after being warned by a

### Taking it further...

Why don't you read the accounts of Jesus' birth at the start of the Gospe

Many Churches teach that Mary was a virgin when she gave birth, and that Jechild. For example, this is emphasised by the Catholic Church. This is partly decided by the Catholic Church.

'Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel sa will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, will be holy; he will be called Son of God."' (Luke 1:343–5 NRSV)

Not all scholars or Christians agree with this position, but it is widely accepted feel that these biblical accounts were created to support Christianity, but that

Note: this is the **virgin birth**, and this is not to be confused with the **immacu** believed predominantly by Catholics; that Mary, Jesus' mother, did not inherit other humans.

Jesus' birth and these events are celebrated by Christians at Christmas. Who celebrated in December is not fully clear – perhaps in the 300s, though posarguments that the Roman Church decided to celebrate esus' birth then be Pagan festival which was celebrated at this ting.

### Practices associated with Chastn is and Advent

Many Churches run Adam Courses, to **meditate** on the meaning of Christm

Many Churches also have Advent wreaths; an Advent wreath is a ring made of greenery, with four candles around the outside, and one in the centre. For each Sunday in Advent, one, or one more, of the candles is lit. On Christmas Day, the candle in the centre is lit in addition. The four candles are normally said to represent God's people, the **prophets**, John the Baptist, and Mary, Jesus' mother; or hope, peace, love, and joy. The central candle represents Jesus, the light of the world. Additionally, the circularity of the wreath can be taken to

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**symbolise** that God is everlasting, and the greenery to symbolise new life. Liver wreath helps to focus Christians' meditations on the events leading up to Christians' meditations on the events leading up to Christians'

Often Churches hold carol services, to remember Jesus' birth and its means? Christingle service, where a candle is inserted into the top of an orange to slight of the world. Many churches hold a midnight service including the **Eu**s Christmas, and Jesus into their hearts.

Many churches and schools hold Nativity plays (plays of the Christmas storacted by children, and many shops and houses have Nativity scenes – representations, the shepherds, wise men and angels in a storie. These help perabout the events surrounding Jesus' birth.

Advent, the time leading up to Christmas, is an important time for preparal symbolically welcome their **Messiah** into the world again. Note: this starts Christmas, not on the first of December! This means that sometimes it begand sometimes in early December. Historically, it was more like Lent, a time as emphasised today. It is important for Christians in Great Britain today be prepare spiritually for Christmas.

[Prophesy, taken to be about Jesus] 'For a child has been born for us, a son gupon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Every Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6 NRSV)

While most Christians feel that it is important of Lorate Christmas, and their relationship with God and atticle anothers, some Christians have dis 1600s tried to ban Christmas they felt it was an excuse for inappropriate strengthening alignment. They also felt that Christmas was not Bible did in an and Christians to celebrate it, and it had effectively replaced.

### Easter

### **Origin of Easter**

different countries and traditions.

Easter celebrates Jesus' **resurrection** from the dead. This was celebrated by the foundation for Christianity. As Jesus died at the time of the Jewish **Pass** Passover, which does not fall on the same date every year. Easter falls on an or April.



# The Events Easter and Holy Week Celebrate and How They are Celebrate Holy Week refers to the week before Easter (Sunday to Saturday), and is include preparation, sometimes including fasting, for forty days, excluding Sundays, special days include Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

Palm Sunday celebrates the Triumphal entry, where Jesus rode into Jerusal and was enthusiastically greeted by the crowd, who laid cloaks and tree brahim, and shouted:

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of (Matthew 21:1–11 NRSV)

Many churches have crosses made out a like 'aranches. It celebrates Jesus died for humans' **salvation**. It can be remind Christians that Jesus was a conventional sense.

Also often bered during Holy Week is the turning of the tables in the the Temple, when Jesus when into the Temple and threw out all the people make a profit, by selling animals for sacrifice or changing money. He then he though the priests were angry. This is significant, because it shows that the be devoted to him, and is not concerned with people making expensive sacrifice.

[Jesus cleansing the Temple] 'He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers." (Matthew 21:13 NRSV)

Maundy Thursday celebrates the **Last Supper**. The Last Supper was when Je Passover with his closest **disciples**: 12 male followers. Passover celebrates people from the land of Egypt. Jesus told his disciples that he would not do God's Kingdom. He took bread, and told them that it was his body, then to this in memory of him. He also shared wine, saying that it was his blood.

'While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he lar and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which the forgiveness of sins."' (Matthew 26:26–28 NRSV)

This sharing of bread and wine is reflected in the Christian practice of the on *Sacraments*).

Services are often held on the evening of sometimes foot-washing.

Sometimes Jesus' 2006 of dirals are remembered here.

wasl

Good Frida Easter celebrate the events described in the section *Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension*. It might be w

A service is often held on Good Friday morning or afternoon, depending of **denomination**, to remember the **crucifixion**. Sometimes the arrest and tree

Services on Easter Sunday celebrate the resurrection. The Eucharist will be celebrated with flowers as a sign of new life. Easter is not just important because

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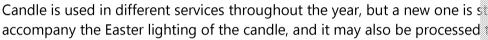


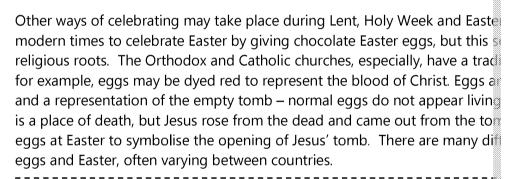
but the fact that they do celebrate is important also. Celebrating Easter demonstrates sure they remember why they are Christians, and why they are grateful as Easter, it might be easier for Christians to stop thinking about their faith in means that the events important to Christians are brought back into their mindeepen their relationship with God.

'But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are look crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." (Matthew 28:5-

Different ways of celebrating Holy Week are carried out in different churches and on different days. Some hold as s, where people stay awake overnight. In sone one hold as there is a trail set around the church with a long to meditate; and symbols, such as a cross and chalice of wine, and so on, are in promisent people stay awake overnight.

In the Cathonic Church, the church sanctuary (church room) is left dark after the Maundy Thursday service, to show the darkness of Jesus' death. At Easter, the church is re-entered and a **Paschal Candle** (a special **symbolic** candle) is lit to represent the light of Jesus returning to the world. A Paschal





### Activity

Find out more about different Easter egg tradition

Impact and Importance of Lent, Holy Week and Ergin Celebrations to Easter celebrates Jesus being resurrected from the local after being crucial Christians in Great Britain today because elebrates that Jesus fulfilled the humans' sins, and brought after allowing Christians to be saved from close relationship with the decause humanity and God are now reconciles

Easter can a see considered important because it indicates to Christians of the dead if Jesus was raised, so Easter gives Christians real hope for the because the whole of the Christian faith rests on Easter: the resurrection. If not brought salvation, and there is no point in following him. But if Christian can expect a heavenly reward.

# 

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Hot cross

Friday (in

'But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also confor as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.' (1 Corinthians 15:3)

Easter's role is to remind Christians of these important aspects of their **fait** salvation and eternal life. This reminder should also help them to work on Lent and Holy Week help Christians to prepare for Easter, to repent of their of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

Most Christians believe that Jesus was physically resurrected, but for alternative description of the Significance of Crucif and Resurrection/Ascers Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Caccar Join above.

Because Catholics emple a crucifixion and Protestants the resurrection Incarnation in the conference of the conference o

### **Quick Questions**

- 25) What does Christmas celebrate?
- 26) How might Christians celebrate Easter?



# 



## The Role of the Church in the Local Co Living Practices

The local church, within Christianity, refers to both a building for worship at Christians. An area within which a church works is sometimes called a parisfer services on Sundays; they do many other things as well.

### **Keywords:**

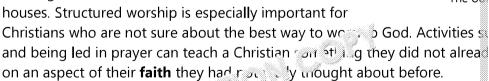
- confirmation within Christianity, often a sacrament, where a Christian aff
   Christian and confirms the promises made at their barraim. Often means full
- ◆ **dedication** in Christianity, a special service of ereal arents thank God for the educate them in the Christian faith the actually baptising them
- evangelism spreading th wat it lesus and trying to convert people
- ♦ procreation making a way children
- rite caracteristics and a majoritant event or celebration which recognises a key
- ritua remony or action of importance these are involved in rites of

### General Role and Importance of the Local Church

The role of the local church is to help Christian believers – those who atterdo not – and also to help the community in general. It is important because

For Christians, a local church can do a lot. It will aim to be the centre of Chiliving practices, by providing worship and a good example for Christian life.

It will provide services, usually once or twice on a Sunday, but within some churches and **denominations** throughout the week as well. These allow Christians to worship God and to receive **sacraments**. For Christians for whom sacraments are important, the Church is essential to their life as a Christian. Special services for **baptisms**, marriages, funerals, and other such occasions allow Christians to involve their religion in important moments in their lives (see more on this below). As well as services, there are often Bible study groups, or other religious meetings, such as **prayer** meetings, at the Church, or other venues such as members' houses. Structured worship is especially important for



As well as worship, sen is a murch groups allow Christians to spend to friendships allowing them to talk about their faith and share life expensive not new yourship-focused, such as youth groups or weekly meet connect with each other. Friendship and community are also an important

Local churches can also do a lot for the community who may not be church activities (those that reach out to the community), such as Alpha courses, revangelism, which can be important in introducing people to the Christian aimed at catering for practical needs. Churches run lunch clubs for the lone homeless and many other things. For some people the church might be the companionship, or basic necessities, which means that it has an important



The ou

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Local churches may also undertake projects on a larger scale, such as building or running another type of charity project. Local churches often have collect charities and good causes, and may also support local issues and raise conce

Some churches support food banks which provide food for those in financial food or money to food banks and then food banks provide the food to the by official figures such as doctors and social workers. This means people we some of those who have just been made redundant, can feed themselves as

Some support street pastor initiatives – putting volunteers on the streets to communities and vulnerable people; for example, de in a grandals with the clubbers with flip-flops for their walk home. It so as areas where there are have also dropped. Such community in a ment can be really important in projects will be funded, the integral will be fed and the vulnerable will be can



### **Activity**

Find out what a local church does in the local community when

### How Church Communities Nurture and Support Families

Churches may accommodate different age groups by running separate action during Sunday worship (Sunday school). This helps to support and nurture parents can bring their children to Church where they can learn about God while the parents are also able to **worship**. Often, children will attend partintroduce them to adult worship, and some churches will run family friend children and parents can worship together.

Churches often run youth clubs separate to church which help to promote young people to interact with other young Christians. These help to nurtur creating positive associations with Christianity for young people, helping pamily. They also support Christian parents by giving them valuable time to

Churches also often run toddler groups (sometimes called mother and chile to fathers as well!) which help to support Christian families by giving them parents. This contact can help by showing that others have struggles with be able to share advice with each other. Because there are multiple adults this often lowers the stress on each parent and gives them a bit of a break parents and children to form friendships – and if Charles families make from the process of the support them both practically and in the state.

When Christians are in how a command and a mable to attend Church (because they priest/vicar with them. Some Churches broadcast their services, of more inclusive. Priests/vicars or church members may also visit Christians with issue, or when something bad has happened in their lives and they need something which no one else would do for them. These visits are important everyone is provided for, and support those who need it. This means that cared for and supported even when they cannot get to church, or when the

Churches also support and nurture Christian families through rites of pass

# 



### Why the Local Church Helps Christians and the Community

Local churches (those who run and support them) wish to help Christians (a spiritual lives, through teaching them, providing them with **sacraments**, and their **faith** by cultivating Christian friendships and helping others. They may because they want what is best for other Christians/people. They know that faith and in their lives, and so want to help others in this way. They may also for this reason – they want them to be happy.

[The Golden Rule] 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to law and the prophets.' (Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

The local church also wants to help individual netievers and the local area by would serve him.

'... where view oecome great among you must be your servant, and be fire you must be slave of all.' (Mark 10:43–44 NRSV)

'And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of members of my family, you did it to me.'' (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)

The early Church also emphasised that church leaders should serve their mental Peter 5:1–4, the writer tells Church elders that they should look after their conserving God, and they will be rewarded for it. It also tells them to be good exactly exactly the serving God, and they will be rewarded for it. It also tells them to be good exactly exactly

'... I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your character the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you (1 Peter 5:1–2 NRSV)

Many Church leaders will, therefore, feel that they must look after individual Christians in their communities and do so willingly. Some may do this for the heavenly reward, while others may be more motivated out of compassion. Some may interpret this passage to emphasise churches caring for Christians (God's flock), and *not* non-Christians in the local community, but others will feel that everyone is a member of God's flock, whether they accept it or not, and so go be should be provided for.

Providing activities and a courch also means that

The outsechurch merchanists commonwolved in helping others; so, by facilitating hurches help people in two ways – helping those in need a good by helping them.

Churches also wish to evangelise new Christians to help others come to know members.

# 



### Rites of Passage

**Rites of passage** are certain important events (including **rituals**) which ce someone's life. These are not just Christian. However, within Christianity, of passage. For a Christian, celebrating these in church and with other Christians can help to strengthen their **faith**, and also show that their fait shows that important points in their life are connected to their religion. Rimportant as times when the Christian community can support its members

Specifically Christian rites of passage include **baptism**, **dedication** and **con** rite of passage which holds significance within Christianity. Such rites of passage and you can look back to the section on a caments to remind rite of passage involves a whole event which in a rimportant point in so the actions which take place during the passage, for example, the rite necessary for the rite of passage, a passage baptism.)

The rite of person of baptism is particularly important for Christians becauthis rite of person before beginning his **ministry**.

'And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, sud opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alightom heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleas



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Rite of Passage	Details and Important
Infant Baptism Infant baptism is a rite of passage marking entry into the church.	Many Christians feel this is an important rite of passage as to raising their child in a Christian family, and also marks t Christian. Many also feel that the ritual of infant baptism they can inherit eternal life. Infant baptism is an importan community, as they make promises to help the parents ra
Believers' Baptism Believers' baptism is a rite of passage marking someone's own decision to belong to the Christian family.	Many Christians feel that this is an important rite of pass commitment to God/Jesus and the Christian community. commitment to spend one's life with someone; in this camany believe that the ritual frees the individual from sin, have a full relationship with God. Evers' baptism is in community as they will a note of portionship with the person baptis relationship with the note people being baptised means to be able to a line work of God.
Dedication  Dedication  alternative to infant baptism. Sometimes it is called an 'infant thanksgiving' service.	As the ceremony is called dedicate their young children, As the ceremony is called dedication, this implies that the God. The parents thank God for their child and promise to Christian faith, but without actually baptising them, so tha baptised when they are older. Many feel that this is an im child is welcomed into the church, and supported, but the their own commitment when they are older. As with bapt community because they make a commitment to support welcomes another participant. In some ways, a dedication it marks them becoming parents and having the responsit
Confirmation Confirmation is a chance for Christians to confirm the promises made at their baptism.	Confirmation is a sacrament in some churches such as the practised in many other churches, generally in ones whice In many ways it is similar to a believers' baptism, and the because it marks a Christian making a commitment to Go Christians believe that confirmation marks Christians receive the Bible talks about baptism with water and baptism with that receiving the Holy Spirit accompanies baptism (or is is important to the Christian community as it means that committing their life to God, and this should be celebrate Confirmation in some <b>denominations</b> has the extra effect / full member of the church. This may involve practical co to vote on issues at church meetings. This is the case in the Sometimes, if a Christian is baptised as an adult in a chur infant baptism, and which practice in firmation, they we the same time. Note: Or note is and Protestant churches which confirmation the same diately after baptism — this is called
Marriage Marriage important passage in many	as the Catholic Church). The marriage ritual involves male to symbolise unending love, unity and commitment. In 0 significant because the spouses make promises to God a

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community.

religions and

cultures because it

marks the end of

single life and a

commitment to

sharing one's life

with another person.

also a spiritual commitment. Christians believe that God

joined in marriage, and they may also feel that marriage Jesus and the church. Marriage is important to the Chris

can help to support each other as Christians, and becaus

foundation for raising a family, and fulfilling God's comm

also results in the possibility of children born to Christian

## Common and Divergent Attitudes towards Practices Connected with Church Community

As seen in the section on *Sacraments*, there are different opinions about whether Christians should practise **infant baptism** or **believers' baptism**. Some (for example, the Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox churches) feel that people should be welcomed into the church as soon as possible, and other (for example, the Baptist Church) feel that belonging to the Christian community in this way should be a conscious decision. However, most Christians (with the notable exceptions of some **denominations** such as the Quakers and Salvation Army) feel that Christians should be baptised at some point to show that they wish to belong to, and the member of, the Church (Christian) community. Some churches, so that the Methodist Church, offer either infant or believer the some depending on parents' (and a Christian's) preferences

Some Christian who not be as concerned with baptism, or argue that there a Christian wes, because Jesus taught that those who believe in him who respond that Jesus also claimed that being born of water and of spirit was Kingdom of God (some equate both of these steps with baptism, while some of water, and **confirmation** as being born of the spirit).

'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in will live..." (John 11:25 NRSV)

'Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of Got and Spirit..." (John 3:5 NRSV)

As denominations such as the Catholic Church and Orthodox Church promononed for a separate **dedication** service – both are designed to welcome community, where their parents will try to raise them. Members of these deparents wish to commit to raising their children in the Christian **faith** then baptised (some will feel strongly that baptism is necessary for salvation and baptised to make sure that they can be saved).

However, Christians who dedicate their child rather than baptising them (for often argue that dedication provides all the parts of infant baptism imports it introduces a child to the church and Christianity. However, it allows the to follow Christianity. These Christians may feel the equation is more appropriate the child is can make this decision for them

There is similarly about confirmation. For church baptism, so the Catholic and Anglican churches, confirmation when a simportant — so that a Christian can confirm their Christian faith. However, believers' baptism is practised (including many **evangelical** churches), believen that someone wants to be a member of the Christian community **passage** is needed to make them a full member. They also argue that Jesu confirmation, only baptism.

Some Christians claim that a two-stage process (baptism and confirmation) is there are examples in the **New Testament** where the Holy Spirit did not constant.

# 



'Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the well-beter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they is (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baselesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the (Acts 8:14–17 NRSV)

Confirmation can also be controversial because in some churches, such as partly a practical commitment – confirmation makes someone a full member (although someone can be a member of the Church community before confirmation makes someone as full members are commitment, but it is also largely a practical commitment, but it is also largely a practical commitment, as confirmed methe Church, and can vote on certain charchest decisions, and only members are positions. Some Christians may will be confirm their faith without taking or responsibilities. Some the church matters, or perform certain church is

Membership of the Christian community is a complicated concept – some anyone who wishes to be a Christian is a member of the community – for would claim that someone is not a member unless baptised (this can be as some Christians, including some Catholics, that unbaptised children cannot denominations, full membership comes with confirmation, for example in churches, such as the Methodist Church, a full practical, as well as spiritual, confirmation.

### Common and Divergent Attitudes towards Marriage and Associated

All Christian **denominations** promote marriage. Many Christian weddings exchanging vows to love and remain faithful to each other and exchanging commitment to their marriage. Christian wedding ceremonies will also ofter (often about God's love, reminding the couple of how much they ought to the couple, and a sermon about marriage. In some **denominations**, include the churches, having the **Eucharist** as part of one's wedding is important. (How Catholic marry in a Catholic church, the Eucharist may be left out because transubstantiation – the Catholic church would not want to offend non-Conffering them the Eucharist.)

Taking it mer...

Find out more about the wedding ser mich in the Catholic, Anglican

For some Christians, such a fallics, marriage is a **sacrament** – it has spectod. Therefore it is a fallics, marriage is valued, and that

Some Christians compare the married couple to Jesus and the Church, with Jesus, and the wife representing the church. Some denominations, for example to Jesus, and the wife representing the church. Some denominations, for example to Jesus, and the wife representing the church. Some denominations, for example to Jesus, and the wife representing the church. Some denominations, for example to Jesus, and the Church, with Jesus, and the William School of the Church, with Jesus, and the Church, with Jesus, with Jesus, and the Church,



'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour... "For his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become on mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, and a wife should respect her husband.' (Ephesians 5:222–3, 31–33)

However, many other denominations believe that husband and wife are equal have more authority than the wife. Such Christians may not view the complesus and the church in the same way.

Some denominations, such as the Catholic Church, it is that the purpose having children. They expect all Catholic nar ed couples, who are able, to many other denominations suppose to have lots of children – they feel optional, by the sexpressed that having children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good. They are purposes to have lots of children is good.

'God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill

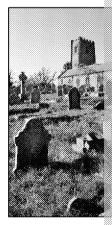
Many Christian wedding ceremonies will reference the place of sex within a modern Christians do have sex before marriage, but especially in denominal Church and evangelical Protestant churches, there will be the expectation before marriage, and that sex is a bond which will strengthen the marital re-

'Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and (Genesis 2:24 NRSV)

### Common and Divergent Attitudes towards Funerals and Connected P

Funerals are services which occur to mark the end of someone's life.

Some churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church, prefer people to be buried rather than cremated (although they no longer insist on this), because they believe in **resurrection of the body** at the end of time. Therefore, such funerals often involve burying the and, with reference to the belief that the dead of time. The Orthodox Chiral is the strictest views on this, and insist an arither than cremation.





'Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the imperishable, and we will be changed.' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52 NRSV)



Many Protestants do not believe in resurrection of the body, but rather **im** are often cremated, and cremation is often separate to the funeral service. or after the service, but their coffin (or urn holding their ashes) is often prescremated because they do not believe their earthly body is necessary for the on *Eschatological Beliefs and Teachings* for different interpretations and exconnected with the afterlife.)

Some Christians wish funerals to be solemn occasions, for example it is trace. However, others use them as more joyful celebrations of someone's life – then, so it is not such a sad occasion. People attending the funeral may be the favourite colour of the person who died.

Many churches are flexible about fineral actices, though the Catholic Chincluding a **vigil**. The vigil is two satisms of prayer held before the funeral to Catholics because it is in pelief in **purgatory**, and the belief that their person in the person in

Funerals often contain Bible readings (often about God's love and heaven) example about death and hope of new life). People often share memories or two people may spend longer talking, or many people may share.

Christian funerals reflect the belief that death is not the end – therefore, who people should give thanks to God for their life, and for their belief that he should christian funerals are personal in as much as they are about the person who on God, the Christian faith, and the afterlife.

Christian funerals are often held in a church, or a chapel in a crematorium, the Christian journey.

Taking it further...

Find out more about funeral services in the Catholic, Anglican or

### **Quick Questions**

27) Give **three** ways in which local churches nurture and support families

### Now Try This...

28) 'All Common should have their children baptised as infants.' Discuss

Analyse and evaluate the importance of points of view for and against odifferent views within Christianity, and refer to sources of wisdom



### Mission

The twenty-first century is an interesting time for Christianity. Christianity has countries which had traditionally been strongly Christian, and **agnosticism** However, Christianity does appear to be on the rise in the Southern hemisp continue to flourish, Christians should learn lessons from the past, and wor

### **Keywords:**

- agnosticism neither believing nor disbelieving in God or gods
- atheism disbelief in God or gods
- ◆ Great Schism the split between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches in 1
- ♦ **mission** purpose, for Christians, helping and correction others
- ♦ missionary work committing time to sva gever and helping people practice.
- ♦ **secular** <u>non-ໝໍ</u>ຸ

### Purpose o Work and Evangelical Work

**Mission** literally means purpose. Within Christianity, when the term 'mission purpose which Christians believe they are fulfilling for God. Generally this is **convert** people, or physical: trying to help others – to feed them, provide the homes, and so on. Work which tries to fulfil one or both of these missions **work**, and those who do it, as missionaries (often someone is classed as a min other countries).

**Evangelism** is spreading the news about Jesus with the aim of converting Jesus' death, Christians have been trying to convert others, with many of the work. This can be voluntary or paid.

Christians evangelise in the aim of fulfilling Jesus' command to spread the commanded his **disciples** to do this before **ascending** to heaven. This is known (commissioning is giving someone a task to do).

### Taking it further...

Why don't you read Mark 16:9-20 and Matthew 28:16-20 to learn more ab

'And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to (Mark 16:15 NRSV)

'... Go therefore and make disciples of a 'n tive, paptizing them in the name Son and of the Holy Spirit, and the holy spirit and the holy spirit

'But power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and Jerus and Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts 1:8)

John 20:21–22 also makes it explicit that the purpose of missionary and evalues of mission – God the Father sent Jesus, and then Jesus sent his disciples help from the Holy Spirit.

'Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

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### Importance of Evangelism and Mission in the Modern Church (Comp.

Christians **evangelise** for many reasons. Primarily, this is because Jesus command make more disciples after he rose from the dead, in the **Great Comm** important to Christians. Most Christians feel that evangelism and the word his disciples to tell the whole world about him. However, there are other Christians on evangelising Jews first, before others – they use biblical sur Christians who disagree with focusing on evangelising Jews first may argue Jesus first brought the **Gospel** to the Jews, but now his followers should be

'... the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to you who has faith, the Greek.' (Romans 1:16 NRSV)

**St Paul**, an important **aposition** who was active shortly after Jesus' death, who againly regarded by many Christians, The peramuch of his time evangelising (as recorded in biblical book the Acts of the Apostles (Acts) and detailed in his letters in the **New Testament**). He urged other Christians to do the same. Therefore, many individual Christians and Churches feel that evangelism is important, and evangelise as part of their service to God.

St Paul was opersecuted Christianity wexperience will Jesus speaking blindness by important apwrote many of

'In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utm (2 Timothy 4:1–2 NRSV)

Some individual Christians are also be incentivised to evangelise out of compassion for those who do not know God. They feel that it is important to help other people to know God. This is especially true for those who believe that Christianity is the only way to get to heaven – in John 14:6 Jess says that he is the only way to the Father, and many Christians interpret the to mean that Christianity is the only way to God (some feel it means that Christianity is the only way to have a particular type of relationship with Gos as Father). However, there are other Bible passages which also support the view that those who are not Christians will not be able to have a relationship with God or eternal life – in the Great Commission, as as as add that those will not believe would not be saved.

'Jesu 1 1 2, 1 am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes throu (John 14:6 NRSV)

'The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does a condemned.'

# 



**Evangelical** Protestants often believe that Christianity is the only way to Government of Protestants (for example many Quakers and Methodists) feel that those of religion, may be saved. The Catholic Church has also relaxed its view and be saved. Therefore, evangelism is more important to Christians such as Exthey do not see valid alternatives to Christianity for **salvation**, whereas may These other **denominations** will still evangelise, but often want to have a greligions and people of no religion in order to work together for peace and put this first.

Evangelism is also important to Christians in order to show that they are no and that they are so passionate about Christianity that they want to share if force. Evangelising others demonstrates that Christian is we proud of their it away to fit in with the world.

'For I am not ashan as a specific solution to es (Romand 6 Program 6 Program

Aside from these reasons, the Church needs to evangelise in order to main if it is to raise funds and encourage volunteers to serve the local and global important to the Church because it helps to keep the Church going. It is exmodern church, as numbers of Christians in many countries (especially Wes

Non-religious **mission** is also important to Christians. Many Christians was to show them love – because Jesus commanded it, and they believe that the for those who have less than they do. Mission is just as important now in past – there are many people living in poverty and in terrible situations.

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the (The Golden Rule - Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

Many Christians also help others practically because they believe that this is their commitment to God. They feel that this is a good expression of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of their earn God's favour, but will demonstrate to others God's love and the position of the god's love and the position of the god's love and the position of the god's love and g

'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loone another. By thisa everyone will know that you are you disciples, if you loon 13:34–35 NRSV)

Many Christians also want is the patiers because they believe that they will help others. To the the poor the sheep and the goats Jesus taught that people helped the leed, as they were doing this for God. He taught that those

'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:34–36)

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There is a debate within Christianity as to whether mission or evangelism is motiventy-first century Britain. Evangelical Protestants are likely to argue that evalue because without it, people cannot be saved – and eternal life is more important other Christians feel that it cannot be this black and white – they feel that it is trying to convert people to Christianity when people are starving to death and

Many Christians adopt the approach that evangelism is important, but that become a Christian if you are not also offering them practical support. Man on practical mission – providing care, food, clothing, medicine, shelter and feel that living in this way and helping others is the best form of evangelism do, and those who benefit, may want to learn more control that christianity.

evangelism, as most denominations provides practical mission above evangelism, as most denominations will claim that evangelism and practical mission and priorities for them. Churches are unlikely to at evangelism is *not* important for them. Individual Christians whave their own personal feelings on the matter. However, there are denominations, which are heavily focused on practical mission, for example, the Salvation Army (though they also seek to

### **Evangelism and Mission in Practice**

Missionary work and evangelism can be local, national or global. Here a

### Local

- Some local church communities hold events and activities (e.g. toddle
  the elderly) for the local community; to provide for them, and also as a
  Church. (missionary and evangelism)
- Vicars and priests go into schools to introduce children to Christianity
- Some local churches help local charities to benefit the community. (m)
- Street pastors (volunteers who do not have to be **ordained**) provide practitalking to members of the community, providing support for vulnerable providing social behaviour. (missionary)

### **National**

- There are national initiatives to evangelise, such as Alpha courses, which anyone can run, which give an introduction to Christianity. (evangelism)
- Messy Church is another national initiative— there churches provide activity sessions for chiral english incorporate **worship**, to introduce families to the angelism)
- Many for be in the unity Christian organisations to help those the inneed. (missionary)

### Global

 Many missionaries work in countries where Christians are struggling, or where Christianity is not well-established; as well as in lest countries, helping with practical considerations, such as health care (he spiritual considerations). (missionary and evangelism)

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### Church Growth and New Forms of Church Today

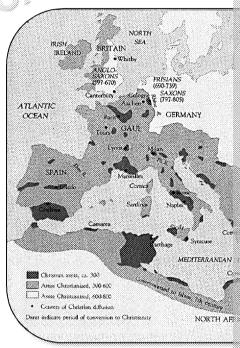
Christian **evangelism** and **mission** began with Jesus. He reached out, taugreached a relatively small group of people compared to the number of Christianity began after his death.

To begin with, after Jesus' death, evangelism took place very locally. Jesus' they lived, in Jerusalem and in the surrounding areas. Within a few decade further, for example to Greece and Italy. Most evangelism was still by word communities kept in touch via letter writing.

'And they went out and proclaimed the good news where, while the Lethem and confirmed the message by the sign and the companied it.' (Mark 1)

Within a few centuries, Chrischity had more of a structure the were priests and post and it had become ceil ased in Rome. It benefitted greatly from State power, for example when the Roman Emperor Constantine converted in 313. When rulers converted to Christianity, they tended to evangelise their subjects, and Christianity spread with colonisation in surrounding countries and via trade.

From the fifteenth century onwards, European countries began to colonise overseas. **Missionary work** was practically important to them because if they converted the



Map showing the spread

people they colonised then the native people were more likely to accept the continued, with later missionaries more interested in converts than state po

In modern times evangelism and missionary work can be local and global. In needed because more people in Christian countries may be atheists and again majority of people (who did not belong to an anarry gion) attended churcoverseas has made it easier for missional againsations to send people about the countries of the countries

Christianity is declining feas where it was previously very popular, such Christianity these areas it needs to modernise; to have a more live appeals to ger people; to modernise some of its values to match commusuch as accepting homosexuality, for those **denominations** which do not) outreach to appeal to modern people (such as a greater presence on social needs to regain people's faith after scandals involving sexual abuse and the

However, the Church is now growing in areas such as parts of the southern economically developed countries. This may also be due to the (newer) typon the rise, such as Pentecostal Christianity.

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In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, churches that place a greater enbeen particularly popular. Existing in multiple global locations, Pentecostal the Holy Spirit is believed to have arrived at **Pentecost**) rate the authority of the Bible or Church leaders. Pentecostals believe they will receive gifts from their spiritual lives, such as speaking in tongues, a mysterious, spiritual lange Pentecostalism flourished, there were often mass conversions, with people Christianity. Pentecostal worship is often lively, making it appealing to a months.

Pentecostalism became popular because it taught that anyone can receive have direct contact with God. Being inspired by the Holy Spirit also gives perbelieve God has given them a message to pass on what is in other branch can be an **ordained** leader or teach other Christians Bout God. This branch disadvantaged groups such as worm and think minorities. Traditionally, on a simple life, expecting the remainded in heaven. Pentecostalism has grown hemisphere in less and including developed countries where many people to the dim the granth in the more-economically-well-off northern hemisphere.

In developing countries, the new forms of church which have grown include **fundamentalists**, and Charismatic Christians. A revival of Pentecostalism of Charismatic Christianity also focuses on the Holy Spirit, though it emphases reward for faith. Many Charismatic leaders are wealthy. Charismatic Christian multimedia, and travel opportunities; preachers can broadcast their services because it promises paradise as well as endorsing a prosperous life.

Evangelical Protestantism has also grown – as with Pentecostalism, it emply Spirit, making it highly personal. It also has lively and appealing worship.

Fundamentalism has grown and developed, largely as a backlash against the modern scientific and **secular** culture in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and also against liberal Christianity. It has been in the last few hundred years that science has provided evidence which contradicts the Bible as a historical account (e.g. the theory of evolution conflicting with the biblical account of **creation**). In the last few hundred years, liberal Bible scholarship has also grown, with many Christians questioning whether events in the life of Jesus really did occur exactly as the

Bible says. There has also been a rise in **atheism**, and increasing secular its values have become less religious). Fundamental – belief in the Bible as a constant group of Christians. Fundamental with liberal Christian and so they have grown as the word of the Bible completely literally biblical teach as those against homosexuality) and with non-Christians.

**Note:** While many Pentecostals and Charismatics are Protestant, some Cath Charismatic leanings. There is also overlap between evangelicals, fundamentally (but not all) evangelicals are fundamentalists, and some charismatics evangelical.

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Do

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Do mo As well as the growth of new Christian denominations, there has also been to **worship** within existing denominations. For example, the concept of Mand has grown rapidly. Many different denominations hold Messy Church provide a different type of church for those who would not normally want worship. Often Messy Church sessions will involve creative activities (such passage or theme, there will be a short and accessible time of worship, and bring and share. One motivation is to appeal to families with young childreall ages, and is not only for children or families. Messy Churches often take other than Sunday mornings, so they feel less like a regulated church. The services rather than replacing them, and may run monthly rather than weevery popular, because it presents worship and learning about Christianity in creative and accessible.

### Taking it further...

ື່ວ know about other new forms of church, research F

While forms of church such as Messy Church often appeal to families, many youth church sessions – worship aimed at young people. Many churches he teenagers are losing interest in Christianity, so they have realised that the running worship sessions which feature more modern Christian music; interest at an accessible level. Having youth church sessions can be beneficial to all members who prefer traditional worship can still experience this, but youn option which may appeal to them more. This avoids the risk of trying to fit into one worship session that no one likes the style and no one is satisfied

### **Quick Questions**

29) Give three examples of methods of evangelism.

### Now Try This...

30) Explain why some Christians see evangelism as important.



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Zig Zag Education

## The Role of the Church in the Wid

The church in the wider world can refer to the entire global Christian common to an individual Christian **denomination** globally; for example, the Catholic

### **Keywords:**

- ecumenism cooperation between different churches and different denon
- monastic relating to monks; men who remain unmarried and devote their living in religious communities
- persecution being treated badly, for example because of religious beliefs
- reconciliation being reunited in a positive sense with someone one was \$\infty\$

### 'Church' and Ecumenism

The word 'church' has been 's a't i regnout this resource, but although it have different meaning. It is started with a little 'c', 'church' can refer to the temporary are physical church in time and space. 'Church' with a specific **a lination**, e.g. the Catholic Church. It can also refer to a color congregation, or all the Christians in the world – this is the spiritual Church than buildings. Both individual church congregations, and larger groups of Christians within one denomination, may feel that they are communities. To common, and, for individual churches, they also share a location of worship shared experiences.

Some churches take part in **ecumenism**; which is where churches work with different denominations, and carry out joint activities or services, and work word '**ecumenical**' refers to something involving different Christian denominations working for unity between different branches of Christianity. Ecumenism is unite the Christian community, and can also help Church resources to achie partnership with those of other churches.

One ecumenical organisation which aims for all churches to work together worldwide, without trying to make them the same, is the World Council of Churches. This incorporates many of the main Christian denominations. The Catholic Church is not a member, but cooperates and interacts with it. The World Council of Churches wants Christians to work together for a better world, and for Christians to feel unity in Jesus. It wants different denominations to **reconcile** – not to stop being different denominations with different practices and beliefs, but to work with others for shared goals, and have positive relationships with them.

'So when you are offering your it with altar, if you remember that your by something against a a recyour gift there before the altar and go; first be sister whe he and offer your gift.' (Matthew 5:23 NRSV)

Different denominations interpret the biblical emphasis on reconciliation in Christians feel that even if they disagree with certain beliefs and practices should try to work with them for the faith, and that other denominations a reaching God. However, the Catholic Church believes that it is the only true while it does work with other churches, it is not a member of the World Correconciles different denominations) because it does not acknowledge that equally valid ways of practising Christianity – it does not feel that it should because they are mistaken in not being members of the Catholic Church.



There are many ecumenical Christian communities in the world:

<b>Ecumenical Community</b>	What it does	
Taizé	A place which hosts a <b>monastic</b> society and is a pilgrimage site. It is famous for a particular style of music and for popularising several chants. Many pilgrims are young and come to join in religious activities with the monks, including prayer, study and singing.	The m memb differe peace Memb differe the co from come
Iona	Iona is an is a pilgrimage site.  The coast of Scara and a pilgrimage site.  The areds of years ago it contained a monastic community who helped to evangelise the surrounding area.  Situated here now is a centre where many Christians come to participate in a Christian community. Iona is not only significant because of its heritage, but because Christians can come here to worship. As well as worship and other Christian activities, pilgrims can tour the abbey on Iona and go on walks to see important spots on the island.	Like at is mad differe encou and w
Corrymeela  Community  Community  Community  Corrymeela  Corrymeel		Corryi people denon views Northe to ease and Pe
'Churches Together' Movement	The 'Churches Together' Movement has different branches, e.g. Churches Together in England, and Churches Together in Wales it is a fay to help link churches different density in the same area who work together for shared goals.	It work to work Christ



An entire Christian **denomination**, or group of denominations, has much a local church. The Church has campaigned worldwide for many issues, inc

- for peace, and reconciling civil conflict and conflict between nations
- for the end of racism and other inequalities and breaches of human right
- for welfare for the poor

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The worldwide Church is important if it can make a positive impact on the to people's lives.

The Church works for worldwide **evangelism** which is important because © bring others to their **faith**, and also provides the Church with members.

The Church also supports many charities worldwide which seek to evangel aid, providing spiritual and physical help to others.

### Persecution of the Church in the Twenty-first Century

Many Christians worldwide are **persecuted** for the land fs. They may not or have access to Bibles, and they may even for expects and violence. This state dislikes all religious beliefs (and hours occurred in communist states), Christian religion(s) (such hours of Korea); or where a country officially allow from other religions of the eradicate Christianity and promote only their regroup Bok min Nigeria). This is not new, and indeed Christian states persecuted aneists and members of non-Christian religions as well.

The Church has tried to support persecuted Christians, but this is not always can try to combat persecution in several ways. It can seek to forge political worship in different countries, and sometimes tries to work together with a more tolerant society. It can also help by **praying**, and by providing pracmissionaries to strengthen the **faith** of persecuted Christians, and to provide other resources.

Some Christians seek **reconciliation** with their persecutors, and forgive them, Christians try not to lose faith due to persecution, believing it is part of God's part Churches may meet and worship in secret to preserve the safety of their members to leave their homes to escape persecution.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate yo But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

### Charity

Many Christians feel that they should give money as/to charity, and do go

Jesus taught Christians to love their neighbours and is like shows how muc gifts and actions are a practical application of saing others.

'The second is this in a "fair love your neighbour as yourself." There is no great the confidence of t

'I give new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if y (John 13:34–35 NRSV)

In the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31–46) Jesus taught and provide clothing, food and shelter, will be the ones to inherit the king really doing it for him – and those who do not, will not.

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'Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you dis

Due to passages such as the parable of the sheep and the goats, some Christians may feel that **salvation** is earnt only through doing good, such by helping others. However, many Christians argue the **aith** in Jesus is truesponsible for salvation – but that those with air is want to help others this is the practical expression of their for

Some Christians give a \*it', a is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' deriver on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income (often a 'tithe' on ). It is a set amount of their income

'Set apart a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from to (Deuteronomy 14:22 NRSV)

### Work of Christian Aid - What it does and Why

There are many charities which work worldwide to help others, for example aims primarily to support people (Christians and non-Christians) practically less-economically-developed countries, responding to natural disasters; he medical care, shelter and education; and helping refugees.

Christian Aid aims to stop, and in the meantime alleviate (make less bad), pof the biblical teachings to help others, and out of compassion for those who need to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. Christian Aid feels that everyone fulfilling life, without living in poverty, and wants to help make this a realist

One of the main projects which Christian Aid has been working on in recersis – the Syrian people need food, shelter and medical supplies, as well as

Christian Aid often works with small, local organisations in the places it help best support which people actually need. It often tries to use sustainable of the example, giving a family a chicken, so that when the chicken lays eggs, tood and/or income.

Christian Aid also campaigns for change, hoping that governments will wo

Christian Aid campaigns in various ways, including to sision and Internet adfundraising. In May every year it holds to collect them. Many churches he Christian Aid.



### Activity

Research another Christian charity, e.g. CAFOD or Tearfund,

### **Quick Questions**

- 31) Describe one ecumenical community.
- 32) Give three reasons why Christians support charities such as Christian

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### **Summary for Practices**

- Worship, devotion to God, can be practiced in many ways. Some worship words and actions, and some follow a liturgical pattern. Others do not. Wo public or private. Many practices can be included in worship, including a seprayer, meditation and sacraments. The Bible is used to teach, guide and
- Some denominations practice up to seven sacraments, special worshall, accept baptism and the Eucharist as sacraments. Baptism is where accepted into the Church through being anointed with, or immersed in remembrance of the Last Supper, where bread and vine are shared to his body and blood for the salvation of the No. I and the forgiveness.
- Prayer, talking to God, can take the commany times and in many forms. Prayers to be ex (exact or structured) or informal. Commany es of prayer are adoration, confection hanksgiving, supplications, grace, intercests, 'praying in the spirit', chants and meditational prayers. The Lord's Prayer is particularly important to Christians as this is the prayer which Jesus taught them to pray.
- Many Christians go on pilgrimages they go on a physical journey to help them progress in their faith. Some go because they feel that a particular place is significant, while others go mainly to spend time worshipping and to be with other Christians. Popular pilgrimage places include Lourdes, Jerusalem, Walsingham and Rome.



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- Christmas and Advent are important for Christians to remember and so birth of Jesus. Holy Week (including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday are remember Jesus' sacrifice when he was crucified and celebrate the new inherit because of his resurrection.
- The church in the local community is important for different reasons. It worship and activities for Christians and the local community, in order life, help others, and evangelise. It helps families, and provides rites and confirmation. As important events such as marriages and funeral this makes local churches central to events which is dimportance for a confirmation.
- The future of the Church is uncertain Varians—converting others through missionary work in a ways been important to Christians be Christians to make the plant ples. Evangelism and mission happen in local and tice and the outreach, and through travelling missionaries there are no ny new churches—newer denominations such as Pentecchurch such as Messy Church—which cater to different needs.
- The Church does many things in the wider world including ecumenispersecuted church, and supporting charity, including charitable organisms.

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## **Answers**

### Mark Schemes for 6-mark and 15-mark Questions

(These are simplified, and not the official OCR mark schemes.)

### 4 marks for knowledge and understanding

Incomplete understanding of question and little knowledge demonstrated.

Slightly more understanding of question and knowledge demonstrated, but not much.

A decent level of knowledge, but not quite enough / not applied fully.

Knowledge and understanding are demonstrated well.

### 2 marks for analysis and evolution

A limited attempt at analysis and evaluation.

Analysis and evaluation are demonstrated we'll and this wiews are considered.

### for knowledge and understanding و المرات الم

Incomplete tai his or question and little knowledge demonstrated.

A decent level owledge, but not quite enough / not applied fully.

Knowledge and understanding are demonstrated well.

### 12 marks for analysis and evaluation

One argument with some justification or several arguments with no justification. Little material and no conclusion.

Little justification of ideas, and little or no reference to different Christian views. Errors in understanding of material, or interpretation of question. A poor conclusion.

Some different views with some justification. Some comparison. Not quite enough analysis and evaluation. A decent conclusion.

A good range of different views, well justified. Good comparison, analysis and evaluation A good and balanced conclusion.

### **Beliefs and Teachings**

Question Number	Answer / Mark Scheme
1	<ul> <li>Omnipotent means all-powerful.</li> <li>The Christian God is believed to have great physical power, e.g. creating performing miracles.</li> <li>Many Christians also believe that God has spiritual power to give people them to make decisions.</li> </ul>
2	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)</li> <li>The Christian God has given humans many commands, such as the Ten Che he must judge whether they keep to them.</li> <li>Christians believe that God is just, and so he was judge between those who wrong and reward and punish accordingly.</li> <li>Jesus taught that God will judge has who help others as righteous, and help others negatively.</li> </ul> Accept the street point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)
3	ristians believe that God the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Solicitistians believe that God is one being but three persons.  Many Christians believe that God the Son helped God with creation and the person of Jesus.  Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum
4	<ul> <li>Humans have dominion, they should control the world.</li> <li>Humans are stewards, they should look after the world.</li> <li>Humans should procreate and multiply.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum

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Question Number	Answer / Mark Scheme
5	<ul> <li>Christians can believe that God did not really create the universe in six delonger period of time, using the Big Bang to start everything.</li> <li>Christians can believe that God created humans and animals through ever as they are now.</li> <li>Christians can believe that Genesis 3 describes how humans in general common God, rather than explaining a real instance of disobedience.</li> </ul>
	Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximur
6	<ul> <li>Christians may feel that there is evil and suffering because it was more long humans free will and allow evil than to make humans puppets.</li> <li>There can be moral evil because humans are free to hurt others. Christian first moral evil occurred at the Fall.</li> <li>Christians may also feel that natural evil is punishment for humans discontinuous.</li> </ul>
	Accept any relevant poi and point/development/example (maximur
7	<ul> <li>Knowledge an 'l' of evil and suffering suggests that there cannot be a power the problem is solved by saying that God is more loving to allow evil a gives rise to important Christian beliefs about free will.</li> <li>If the problem is solved by saying that God is not all-powerful, this mean have to revise their beliefs about God.</li> <li>If the problem is solved in other ways, such as evil being a test, this may Christian's faith and help Christians to understand God more.</li> <li>Accept any relevant point or justification (maximum 4)</li> <li>Analysis and Evaluation:</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Explanations of evil and suffering, such as the doctrine of the Fall, have hon Christianity. For example, belief in original sin being the start of evil the fallenness of humanity, and led to practices such as infant baptism in saved from original sin.</li> <li>Belief in the Fall as an explanation for evil and suffering has also led som women as inferior to men, because it was Eve who tempted Adam, and sand hence suffering. If there were no such problem of evil and suffering have been a greater degree of gender equality in traditional Christianity.</li> <li>Accept any relevant point or justification (maximum 2)</li> </ul>
	Do not worn
8	<ul> <li>Do not worry.</li> <li>Reconcile with others.</li> <li>Treat others as you would like to be treated.</li> </ul>
9	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximur)</li> <li>Jesus taught Christians to love others, no matter woo they were.</li> <li>Jesus showed Christians that love is more and than law.</li> <li>Jesus taught and showed Christians to at the point should have faith, and if the help them.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point/development/example (maximur)
10	us claimed authority to forgive sins (which belongs to God).  esus was resurrected from the dead, showing his power over death.
11	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximur)</li> <li>Soldiers gamble for Jesus' clothing.</li> <li>Jesus was mocked.</li> <li>The sky went dark.</li> <li>The curtain in the Temple tore in two.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximur)



Question Number	Answer / M	lark Scheme
12	<ul> <li>Points and Justification For:</li> <li>The Gospels report that he performed miracles and healings (e.g. Luke 7).</li> <li>He appeared to have the authority to forgive sins (e.g. Mark 2).</li> <li>The Gospels claim that Jesus rose from the dead, and only God has power over death.</li> <li>At Jesus' baptism and the Transfiguration, God refers to Jesus as his son. 'And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he sate the Spirit of God descending like and a lighting on him was and alighting on him was and the Beloved, with vary and heaven said. "The major, the Beloved, with vary and heaven said." (Matthew 1the Word). It is true and so believe this. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God And the Word became flesh and lived among us Jesus Christ' (John 1:1, 14, 17 NRSV)</li> <li>It is important for Christians to believe that Jesus is God, because this means that they should follow his teachings, and have been saved by him.</li> <li>Most Christian churches, such as the Catholic Church have taught this, and Christians should respect church authority.</li> <li>The doctrine of the incarnation explains how Jesus could be both God and human, which explains why did not always seem completely divine all the time.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Points and Justification Aga</li> <li>The Bible can be read to the Messiah, but was still early Christians believed Christadelphians believed Support for believing the Some scholars believe John 1 was not written author, and that the paword being God is not this is important, becardiable then Christians their beliefs on it.</li> <li>Some Christians believe referred to as the 'Son mean that he is God, but a special relationship was generally referred to as rather than 'God' in the important, as if the Gosmean to imply that Jesuthen maybe Christians this.</li> <li>Jesus displayed clearly characteristics, such as suffering. God could not be Jesus' moral teaching is even if he was not Godhuman Messiah he may humanity, so Christians believe that Jesus was in God and practise the The Jews never expected so maybe Christians has</li> </ul>
13	<ul> <li>Salvation in Christianity means being saved for Receiving salvation means that Christians do have a relationship with God.</li> <li>Salvation is something which needs to be given they receive salvation because Jesus died for Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point of the Christians believe that it is down an ade it per God.</li> <li>Christians believe that it is down and it per God.</li> <li>Christians believe that Jesus' crucifixion made it per God.</li> <li>Christians believe that they receive salvation</li> </ul>	rom sin. not have to fear death/punis ven or achieved – most Christ them, and they believe in his me_t/example (maximum possible for them to have a re e it possible for anyone to ha
14	<ul> <li>believe that Jesus needed to make up for the death and separation from God.</li> <li>'For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus death.' (Romans 8:2 NRSV)</li> <li>Some Christians feel that they can only receivery important for them, so that they are sav</li> <li>Accept any relevant point or justification (maxim</li> </ul>	eir sins because sin would coss s has set you free from the law we salvation through faith in seed.



Question Number	Answer / Mark Scheme
	<ul> <li>Analysis and Evaluation:</li> <li>Because Christians feel free from sin due to salvation through Jesus, this freed from following the Jewish law. They worship Jesus and accept his sath This has put Christianity and Judaism on a very different path, as many Christianity and Judaism on a very different path, as many Christianity has become both an inclusive and an evangelising religion believe that anyone can receive salvation through Jesus, and some believe only way that they can receive salvation.</li> </ul>
15	Accept any relevant point or justification (maximum 2)  Heaven Hell Purgatory  Accept any relevant point in the point of point development example (maximum)
16	<ul> <li>Many Christians believe in the immortality of the soul – they believe that the staffer death and be judged immediately by God.</li> <li>Some Christians believe in resurrection of the body – they believe that the resurrected at the end of time and judged by God then.</li> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)</li> </ul>







### **Practices**

Question	
Number	Answer / Mark Scheme
17	<ul><li>Liturgical</li><li>Non-liturgical</li><li>Public</li></ul>
18	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum Knowledge and Understanding:         <ul> <li>Some Christians feel that liturgical worship is important because it allows practise sacraments, and feel comfortable with a set style of worship.</li> <li>Some Christians feel that non-liturgical worship is important, because the they feel inspired by God and the Holy Spirit</li> <li>Some Christians feel that private wors' april in partant because it allows C in ways which work for them and the feeling of the personal relation.</li> <li>Some Christians feeling april worship is important because it allows the encourage of the personal relation.</li> <li>Some Christians feeling april worship is important because it allows the encourage of the personal relation.</li> <li>Accept any relevant point or justification (maximum 4).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Analysis and Evaluation:         <ul> <li>Different Christians are likely to find different types of worship more or less depending on who/what they believe has the ultimate authority on religion that the Church or Bible hold the most authority are likely to find liturgical significant than non-liturgical worship because they want to worship in way encourages / in ways in which they can hear and be taught about the Bible In contrast, those who feel that the Holy Spirit has the most authority will like liturgical worship most significant because they want to worship as God was humans want to organise it.</li> <li>Feeling that public or private worship is more significant may depend on wifeels able to worship authentically with others or on their own. If they find concentrate on worship, they may prefer public worship where worship is dependent time praying etc. individually.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
19	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point or justification (maximum 2)</li> <li>A young child is anointed with water in the name of the Father, Son and H</li> <li>The parents make promises to raise them in the Christian faith.</li> <li>A candle is presented to symbolise Jesus' light in the child's life.</li> </ul>
20	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximur)</li> <li>The Eucharist is a Christian sacrament which remembers the Last Supper, we bread and wine with his disciples.</li> <li>The Eucharist involves Christians receiving bread and wine which represent of Jesus, and remind them of his sacrifice.</li> <li>Catholics believe that the Eucharist involves insubstantiation – the bread become the body and blooding.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)
21	on feasion  anksgiving  Grace  Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum
22	<ul> <li>The Lord's Prayer is an important Christian prayer, based on what Jesus tau pray in Matthew 6.</li> <li>It asks God for sustenance and forgiveness.</li> <li>It is regularly used by Christians in worship, as a prayer for all to join in, or want to pray as God desires them to pray.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximur

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Question Number	Answer / Mark Scheme
23	<ul> <li>Pilgrimage is making a physical journey to symbolise or support a spiritus</li> <li>It is often made to sites with particular religious significance.</li> <li>It often involves spending time with other people of one's religion, worship</li> </ul>
24	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)</li> <li>Many Christians go on pilgrimage because it enables them to spend time</li> <li>Some Christians go on pilgrimage because they believe that certain sites may be places of healing.</li> <li>Some Christians go on pilgrimage because it is commanded in the Bible went on pilgrimage and they want to follow his example.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/devaled at the example (maximum)
25	<ul> <li>Christmas celebrates the birth of Josu</li> <li>It celebrates God sending his so the world to live with humanity, to restore the relation his example for God and humans.</li> <li>It celebrates a see and his son so that he would save humans from single and serevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum).</li> </ul>
26	<ul> <li>me Christians celebrate Easter with an Easter vigil, where people stay awaiting for Jesus to rise (symbolically).</li> <li>Christians often celebrate Easter by giving/painting eggs, which symbolise brings, and the empty tomb.</li> <li>Some Christians celebrate Easter by decorating the church with flowers, while life.</li> </ul>
27	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)</li> <li>Churches provide Sunday schools.</li> <li>Churches provide toddler groups.</li> <li>Churches provide family worship.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)







Question Number	Ansv	ver / Mark Scheme
28	Points and Justification For:  Churches such as the Catholic Church and Anglican Church promote infant baptism and teach that it is right, so Christians of these denominations may feel that they should have their young children baptised because they respect church authority.  Jesus taught that people needed to be baptised, and that those were baptised would want to the ceive salvation.  'Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5 NRSV)  If parents are going to dedicate their child, they might as well baptise them. Children can get confirmed when older to show they agree with the promises made at their baptism.  There is possible biblical support for infant baptism – whole families getting baptised e.g. Acts 16.	Points and Justification Against:  Churches such as the Baptist baptise children as infants and wrong, because they believe baptised as adults as Jesus with 'And when Jesus had been became up from the water, sudd were opened to him and he sidescending like a dove and a a voice from heaven said, "The Below with whom I am well (No new 3:161–7 NRSV)  Winany Christians believe that through faith – they do not see baptism if it is not accompanidate. "I am the realife. Those who believe in medie, will live" (John 11:25 NI)  The Methodist Church practists believer's baptism, so Christiat choose whether they want to children as infants or not.  There is the option of a dedict parents can make promises to children as Christians while all make promises for themselve older.  It is quite possible that there for infant baptism – the family might not have involved child.  Quakers and the Salvation Arall – they feel that outward syneeded – people are saved the God's grace.



Accept any relevant point or justification.



Question Number	Answer / Mark Scheme
29	<ul> <li>Churches can evangelise through running Alpha courses to introduce people vicars and priests can go into schools to introduce children to Christianity</li> <li>Missionaries can travel abroad to introduce people to Christianity in counterprint is not the main religion.</li> </ul>
20	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum Knowledge and Understanding:         <ul> <li>Christians see evangelism as important because it enables churches to gromore Christians to carry out church work and to make a difference in the Christians see evangelism as important because evangelising fulfils Jesus more disciples.</li> <li>Christians feel evangelism is important because evangelising fulfils Jesus more disciples.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Christians feel evangelism is important because that more peoprather than condemned if they became Christians.         <ul> <li>And he said to them, "Go in the award and proclaim the good news creation. The one whole in and is baptized will be saved; but the one believe will be award in the good news are supported." (Mark 16:15–16 NRSV)</li> </ul> </li> <li>The same see evangelism as important because they feel compassion more know Jesus.</li> <li>The christians see evangelism as important because it shows that they are christians see evangelism as important because it shows that they are christians see evangelism as important because it shows that they are christians see evangelism as important because it shows that they are christians see evangelism as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows that they are christians as important because it shows the christians are christians as</li></ul>
30	<ul> <li>their faith.</li> <li>Accept any relevant point or justification (maximum 4)</li> <li>Analysis and Evaluation: <ul> <li>If Christians did not see evangelism as important, then Christianity could do not want this to happen because they want others to come to know Jethey want to carry on the good work of the church.</li> <li>Christians may see evangelism as very important if they feel that Christian God and salvation (one interpretation of John 14:6). Those who do not be see evangelism as so important if they believe that people can come to Go.</li> <li>Christians may see evangelism as important if they prioritise people's spin their physical ones. If they feel that helping people out of poverty is a prioritise evangelism as so important.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
31	<ul> <li>Accept any relevant point or justification (maximum 2)</li> <li>Taizé hosts an ecumenical community of monks.</li> <li>It is a pilgrimage site, famous for a particular style of music.</li> <li>People of different denominations can worship and study there.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point/development/example (maximum)
32	<ul> <li>Christians support charity because Jesus taught that those who helped of to heaven.</li> <li>Christians support charity because Jesus taught that people should love of charity shows this love.</li> <li>Christians may support charity because the Old Testament teaches that petithe to God.</li> </ul> Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per poi //de supment/example (maximum)



