

Christianity Beliefs

There are Many Beliefs about the Nature of God

1.	What does omnipotence mean?	All-powerful, although he still allows each person free will.
2.	What does benevolence mean?	God is loving and caring: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16 NIV). Christians try to follow his example in their actions
3.	What do Christians believe about God as judge?	A just judge, meaning that God judges people's actions fairly. Those who reject him and live sinful lives will be punished. But God also forgives people who are sorry for what they've done and become faithful to him, God will forgive anyone who returns to him.
4.	What does omniscience mean?	God knows everything in the past, the present and the future.
5.	What does God as eternal mean?	God has always existed, and he will continue to exist forever.
6.	What does God as transcendent mean?	God is beyond this world – he doesn't depend on it to exist.
7.	What does God as immanent mean?	God is present in the human world, and takes an active role in humanity.
8.	What does God as personal mean?	God is a person albeit an almighty and divine person. If God is personal, then a relationship is possible through prayer – which can be a conversation with God.
9.	What is the Trinity?	God exists in three persons – the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

God created everything

10	What does Genesis 1 teach about creation?	God created everything. The process took six days and on the seventh day God rested.
11	Who was responsible for creation?	Christians see God the Father as the Creator but the Bible also describes how the other beings of the Trinity were involved. God created the world by acting through the Holy Spirit.

Free Will leads to evil entering the World

12	What does Christianity teach about evil that entered the world?	Evil entered the world as a result of Adam and Eve giving into temptation in the Garden of Eden – they disobeyed God by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Christians refer to this action as 'the fall.'
13	What is original sin?	After the fall every human being was born with a flawed nature, capable of causing suffering – this is the idea of original sin.
14	What do Christians believe about free will?	God created humans with free will - it's up to them to choose whether they perform evil deeds or not, just as it was up to Adam and Eve whether to give in to temptation or not. Good is the opposite of evil and since God is good Christians try to follow his example.

Evil can be either Human (man) Made or Natural

15	What are the two types of evil?	Moral (human – made) Evil, When suffering is brought about by the cruel actions of people and Natural Evil such as diseases, floods and earthquakes.
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Evil can lead People to Question their Faith

16	What does evil and	Evil and suffering may lead some people to question their belief in God –
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	suffering do to some people and their belief in God?	or even to reject their faith.
17	What do some Christians say about the existence of suffering?	Some might say that since suffering exists God can't be both benevolent and omnipotent – a loving and all powerful God wouldn't allow it to happen, they might argue that he doesn't exist or that he can't have the characteristic of omni-benevolence that believers say he has.
18	How might some Christians justify the existence of evil and God?	But others would say that although God has these characteristics he gave people free will and so doesn't interfere. Or some may say that he wants to help but is not powerful enough.
19	How do Christians react to evil and suffering?	Christians react to evil and suffering in various ways. Suffering is often seen as a test of faith – God has his reasons (even if we don't know what they are). Many believe that God is with people in their suffering and that it can bring people closer to him.
20	What is the argument that some put forward to justify how this world is not meant to be perfect?	Others say life on Earth isn't meant to be perfect – the focus should be on reaching heaven.
21	What does the book of Job teach about evil and suffering?	The Book of Job tells of the terrible suffering Job endures and how he questions God. In the end Job come to the conclusion that God is all – powerful and knows what he is doing- and that suffering must be accepted because people can't really understand the world or God's plan, "though he slay me, yet will I hope in him" Job 13:15NIV
22	What do Christians believe they should do for people who are suffering?	Christians believe they should try to help people who are suffering – practically (charity) and by praying. Jesus said that, "whatever you did for one of these brother and sisters of mine you did for me." (Mathew 25:40 NIV)
23	What do Christians teach about judgement?	Christians believe that God will judge you and you'll go to either heaven or Hell.

Christians Believe Resurrection Happens at the Last Judgement

24	What do some Christians believe about last judgement?	Some believe that all of humanity will then be judged at the last judgement. Those that God find acceptable will enter heaven – the rest will go to hell as in the story of the sheep and the goats. (Matthew 25:31-41)
25	What do some Christians believe about a personal day of judgement?	Some Christians e.g. Roman Catholics believe in a personal day of judgement straight after a person dies – their actions will be judged and they'll go to heaven or hell straight away. Some think they'll be judged again at the last judgement and will re-enter heaven or hell in their resurrected forms.
26	What do Christians who do not believe in personal judgement believe in?	Others don't believe in a personal judgement – the soul must wait to be judged at the last judgement.

Resurrection

27	What does atonement refer to?	Christians also believe the crucifixion helped to repair the relationship between God and mankind – the atonement.
28	What happened to the	According to the Gospels. After the crucifixion Jesus's body was put in a

	body of Jesus after the crucifixion?	tomb, but he was resurrected (brought back to life) and his tomb was found empty.
29	What did Jesus say to the two women?	Jesus talked to two women and told them, "go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, there they will see me (Matthew 28:10 NIV)
30	What does the resurrection prove to Christians?	The resurrection is important to Christians as it shows them that there is life after death- death becomes less frightening. It shows them just how powerful God is. This power that raised Jesus from the dead gives people the strength to live Christian lives.

Christians Must seek Salvation to Get to Heaven

31	What does salvation mean?	Salvation means the soul being saved from death and sin allowing it to reach heaven. For this to happen Christians believe they must have faith in Jesus. "Salvation is found in no one else" (Acts 4:12 NIV)
32	How is salvation possible?	Salvation is only possible through God's grace – God showing favour to those who have earned it. "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith ... it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8 NIV)
33	How do Christians know how to live a good life?	The Bible contains many laws such as the Ten Commandments which provide Christians with guidance on how they should behave. Everyone will sin, but the laws mean they'll become conscious of sin (Romans 3:20NIV) and turn to God in repentance. (Acts 20:21 NIV)

Christianity Practices

Some Worship is liturgical (Set Pattern)

1	How do Anglicans, Catholics and Orthodox Christians celebrate the Eucharist?	Anglican Sunday mornings services usually include the Eucharist and Catholic Sunday morning services always do (Catholics call the Eucharist Mass)
2	How does public worship help Christians to be involved in a wider Christian community?	For many public worship helps them to feel involved in a wider Christian community it can also help them feel closer to Jesus as they believe he is there in the Church with them.
3	What are the similarities between Catholic and Anglican Eucharist services?	Anglican and Catholic Eucharist services share many similarities. A confession of sin and a request for God's mercy is said by everyone call the Penitential rite by Catholics. There are readings including Gospel readings and a sermon – this part is known at the liturgy of the word. The Nicene or Apostles Creed is then recited. The priest says prayers over bread and wine – this is called the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Then the congregation says the Lord's Prayer and shares the peace by shaking hands. They receive the bread and wine; Catholics call this the rite of Communion.
4	How are Orthodox Eucharist services similar to Anglican and Catholic ones?	Orthodox services contain similar elements to Anglican and Catholic ones; a sermon, Bible reading, the Nicene Creed and blessing of bread and wine. They include the litany where the priest says prayers and the congregation respond with 'Lord have mercy.' Worshippers sing or chant for most of the service. Services are often longer than most Anglican and Catholic series and people stand for the majority of the time.
5	Do all Christians agree with non-liturgical worship?	Some Christians prefer the freedom of worshipping God in a less structured way. Others view non- liturgical worship as unsuitable for the level of respect that religious services require.
6	How do the Society of Friends, Methodists and Evangelical Christians celebrate the Eucharist?	The worship of the <u>Society of Friends</u> (Quakers) is non liturgical and it is usually unstructured. Worshippers sit together in silence but they are free to pray or speak out loud <u>Methodist services</u> don't have to follow a set structure but there is a Methodist worship book with suggested liturgy for parts of worship e.g. the Eucharist services feature humans readings a sermon and prayers. The Eucharist also takes place but not every week. Worship in <u>Evangelical Churches</u> e.g. Pentecostals is often spontaneous. Worshipers believe they're inspired by the Spirit – this is called charismatic worship, it might inspire them to pray clap dance or shout sometimes they speak in tongues – praying in an unrecognisable language

Some Christians also Engage in private Worship

7	Some Christians worship informally at home. How do they do this?	Many Christians worship informally at home (not just on Sundays. This can be anything from saying grace before a meal to singing worship songs with family to reading the Bible or praying.
8	How do Christians worship privately?	Lots of Christians worship both publicly and privately – private worship can help them keep God in mind throughout their everyday lives. Some also find greater freedom in private worship – they decide how they worship God and so feel a better connection with God.

There are many different understandings of the Eucharist

1	What is the Eucharist?	The Eucharist is where Christians remember the last supper with bread and wine.
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		Many denominations see it as a sacrament but have different beliefs about the bread and wine.
2	<p>What is transubstantiation?</p> <p>What do most Anglicans believe about Holy Communion?</p> <p>What do Baptists believe about the bread and wine at communion?</p>	<p>Roman Catholics believe in transubstantiation (i.e. the bread and wine used a mass become the flesh and blood of Christ) and every Mass is a re-enactment of Christ's sacrifice. They believe that they receive the saving power of Jesus into themselves through the bread and wine.</p> <p>Most Anglicans believe Holy Communion is more than just an intellectual commemoration of the Last Supper – its re – enactment. They believe that there is a real presence of Christ in the bread and wine but they don't believe that transubstantiation occurs.</p> <p>Baptists view the bread and wine as symbols but believe that God is present through the act of Christians coming together to share Communion. The bread and non-alcoholic wine are set out on a simple table. The bread is later offered from person to person and the wine drunk from small individual cups.</p>
7	What is the Eucharist?	The Eucharist (Mass) is seen as "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1324.) Receiving the body and blood of Christ joins people together in their faith and gives them the strength to live Christian lives and face any problems they may encounter.

Prayer puts People in Touch with their God

1	What is prayer?	Prayer is when believers mentally or vocally communicate with God – it should be part of daily life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God. During prayer people might thank God (thanksgiving), worship God (adoration) or admit sins (confession) They might ask God for something (supplication) or to help other people (intercession).
2	What do believers draw comfort from when praying?	Believers draw comfort from the fact that God is listening to them. They also listen for what he is saying to them – many believe prayer helps them to find out what God wants them to do in life.
3	Do denominations have set formal prayers?	Most denominations have formal, set prayers that are Church tradition – they can be said during acts of worship church and also in private.
4	Why is the Lord's Prayer important?	The Lord's Prayer is very important. It's based on the words Jesus used when he told his disciples how to pray. It covers key themes – e.g. the idea that God is our Father and he provides for peoples physical needs.
5	What are informal prayers?	Informal prayers are when the individual talks to God in their own words. They're sometime called extempore prayers and can be used in worship and privately. Informal prayers are more personal and show the individuals connection with God – many Christians prefer them to formal prayers.

Churches play an Important Role in the local community

1	What is the role of the Church in the local community?	<p>Most communities in the UK have access to at least one church. The role of the local church is to put the Christian faith into action – this includes caring for the community as seen in lots of Christian teaching.</p> <p>Churches put this into practice in many different ways</p>
2	What kind of services do most churches celebrate?	By providing regular services and a place for quiet reflection – most churches hold a Sunday service and may also have other acts of worship throughout the week.

3	What else do churches do in the community?	Many Churches also raise money for charity.
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Evangelism Tells people about Christianity

1	What is Evangelism?	Evangelism means spreading the Christian message with the aim of converting people.
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Organisations and Churches help Persecuted Christians

1	Do Christians suffer for being Christian?	Millions around the world suffer for being Christian – some endure prison sentences or even death.
2	How do organisations support Christians who get persecuted?	Organisations give support by providing Bibles so people can continue worshipping in secret. They offer training to church members and support people who have lost their homes. Churches pray for the persecuted and may send money. Christians might petition for government help.

Christian Charities help those in need

1	What does the parable of the Sheep and Goats teach?	In the story of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46) Jesus explains that people who have been good (the sheep) and have helped others will be looked after by God. People who haven't (the goats) will suffer. The story tells Christians that they are helping Jesus when they help others.
2	Why is Charity important?	Because of this charity is very important to many Christians but it's not all about giving money – it must be done with love. In 1 Corinthians 12:3 St Paul said "if I give all I possess to the poor ...but do not have love I gain nothing." (NIV)
3	What does Christian Aid do?	Christian Aid works globally to relieve poverty. They set up project in the developing world drawing on the skill of local people. The organisation also aims to change government policy to help reduce the suffering of the world's poor e.g. through debt relief and fair trade products.
	What does CAFOD do?	CAFOD (Catholic agency for overseas development) works to fight poverty and injustice around the world. They work through churches helping in emergencies but also giving people the skill to help themselves
	What does Tearfund do?	Tearfund is an evangelical organisation – it helps communities with projects run through their churches. Their work includes trying to end hunger resolving tension in conflict zones and helping refugees. They also help areas hit by natural disasters.