

Belief	Why it is important	How it influences Christians	Contrasting beliefs	Quotes
<p>The nature of God as Omnipotent (all-powerful), Loving and Just (fair)</p> <p>God is seen as perfect, almighty, can do anything e.g. made the world. He loves all human beings and shows this through miracles and through the sacrifice of Jesus. He fairly rewards good actions and punishes bad actions. He gave people rules such as the 10 commandments.</p>	<p>These features of God show that He is the supreme being, worthy of worship, with complete power over human beings. Without these qualities, God would not be God – He would be imperfect and therefore not deserving of worship.</p>	<p>Because God is just, Christians will take care to do good deeds in order to avoid being judged harshly by God.</p> <p>Because He is powerful, Christians believe that he can do miracles.</p> <p>Because he is loving, Christians try to copy his love by treating others with respect.</p>	<p>All Christians believe that God has these attributes. If you are asked a 'contrast' question about the nature of God, write about two of the three qualities: omnipotent, loving, just.</p>	<p>"Nothing is impossible with God."</p> <p>"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but shall have eternal life."</p> <p>"The Lord loves the just... Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed."</p>
<p>The Problem of evil and suffering</p> <p>Many people question why a God who cares about his people and is omnipotent would allow people to suffer. This issue is known as the 'problem of evil'.</p>	<p>It raises questions about whether it is possible to believe in a God who is loving and powerful, given that there is evil and suffering in the world. This leads some people to question their faith.</p>	<p>Christians must explain how it is possible for God to allow suffering to happen. They may argue that in being just, God brings suffering to bad people.</p> <p>They may also see suffering as an opportunity to care for other people, acting out God's love.</p>	<p>Some Christians believe that God gave people the freedom to choose whether to do good or evil, sometimes harming others. Other Christians believe that the Devil causes evil and suffering.</p> <p>Others believe that we can only become good and mature people if we experience suffering.</p>	<p>"We know that we are children of God and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."</p> <p>"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you."</p>
<p>The oneness of God and the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit</p> <p>Christians believe on one God – they are monotheists. They believe that God has three aspects: the Father (in Heaven, created the Earth); the Son (Jesus, God in human form); and the Holy Spirit (a guide, God's power in the world).</p>	<p>In order for God to be perfect and omnipotent, there can only be one God. The different aspects of God show important qualities; As Father, He shows His power; As Jesus, He shows His understanding of human suffering; As Holy Spirit, He shows that He will always be present to guide people.</p>	<p>Christians believe that the Holy Spirit guides and strengthens them in all they do.</p> <p>Christians believe that God understands what it is like to be human because He came to Earth as Jesus.</p>	<p>All Christians believe in one God and in the Trinity. If you are asked a 'contrast' question on this topic, describe two different parts of the Trinity.</p>	<p>"And the word became flesh and dwelt among us."</p> <p>"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."</p> <p>"The spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all."</p>

<p>Creation God is said to be eternal (existing forever, before anything else) and created the world in 6 days, resting on the 7th. This creation is described in detail in the book of Genesis in the Old Testament and is also referred to in the New Testament in the book of John.</p>	<p>The creation shows that God is eternal, shows his power and shows that both the Holy Spirit and Jesus were present at the beginning of time (see quotes: the spirit = the Holy Spirit; the Word = Jesus).</p>	<p>This confirms, for Christians, the power and greatness of God. Because Jesus was present at the beginning, it shows Christians that God always intended to send Jesus to save people. It shows that the three elements of God are united in the Trinity, because all were present together at creation.</p>	<p>Some Christians believe that God literally created the world in 6 days, as described in the Bible. Other Christians don't think the Genesis story is literally true, but believe that it shows that God created the world over a period of time, making humans the most important beings.</p>	<p>"In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth...the spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Genesis "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John</p>
<p>The afterlife Christians believe that when people die, they will be resurrected to eternal life in Heaven if they have had faith and followed God's rules. Otherwise, they will go to Hell. Roman Catholics believe that people go to Purgatory before Heaven, to pay for their sins.</p>	<p>Belief in the afterlife shows that God is just and will judge people fairly. It reminds Christians that good people will be rewarded eventually.</p>	<p>Christians will try to follow God's rules and to follow the example of Jesus, so that they will be rewarded in Heaven. Catholics may pray for the soul of somebody who has died, in the hope that they will spend less time in Purgatory.</p>	<p>Roman Catholics believe in Purgatory, which other Christians don't believe in. Some Christians believe that Hell cannot exist because a loving God would not make people suffer forever. Some Christians believe our bodies will be resurrected in Heaven, others believe just our souls will go there, or we will be given new bodies.</p>	<p>The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats: "Take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to drink...I was in prison and you came to visit me."</p>

<i>Belief</i>	<i>Why it is important</i>	<i>How it influences Christians</i>	<i>Quotes</i>
<p>The Incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God Jesus is believed to be the human form of God. The incarnation is the process of God becoming human. Christians believe that Jesus' mother Mary became pregnant through a miracle by the Holy Spirit, known as the immaculate conception.</p>	<p>Christians see Jesus as 100% God and 100% human at the same time. This means that Jesus' words and actions are those of God. It also means that God understands what it is like to be human and to suffer.</p>	<p>Christians see Jesus as a perfect human being and try to act as he would have done. They feel close to God because they believe that He understands the challenges of human life.</p>	<p>"She was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit." "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." "When Jesus was baptised, a voice from Heaven said 'You are my Son.'"</p>

<p>The Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension According to the Bible, Jesus was executed by being nailed to the cross (crucified), he died but came back to life three days later (resurrection) and eventually he rose up to Heaven (ascension).</p>	<p>The crucifixion shows that Jesus was willing to die in order to take the punishment for the sins of humans. The resurrection shows that Jesus was God as he had power over death which humans could not have. The ascension shows that Jesus is in Heaven forever.</p>	<p>The crucifixion makes Christians confident that if they accept Jesus' sacrifice they will be forgiven for their sins and will be able to go to Heaven. His resurrection and ascension prove that goodness can overcome evil (life overcoming death) and that humans can rise from the dead and go to Heaven.</p>	<p>"When they came to the place called the skull, they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left." "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'" "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to Heaven."</p>
<p>Sin, including Original Sin Christians believe that all human beings sin (do wrong things). Because God is just, he will punish people for their sins. The first sin was committed by Adam and Eve when they ate the fruit which God had forbidden them from eating. All humans are seen as being like Adam and Eve, born with the inclination to do wrong. This idea is called Original Sin.</p>	<p>If all humans are born with Original Sin, then all humans need a way to be cleansed from that sin so that they can get to Heaven. Similarly, everybody commits sins throughout their lives and therefore nobody deserves to go to Heaven unless there is a way to be forgiven.</p>	<p>Christians will try to live a good life and avoid committing sins. They will be baptised, or baptise their babies, so that they can be cleansed of original sin. If Christians sin, they will ask for God's forgiveness and try to change their behaviour in future.</p>	<p>"Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned."</p>
<p>The means of salvation: law, grace and spirit Salvation means being saved from Hell. Christians believe they can be saved by following the Law of God (e.g. rules from the Bible); by God's grace (His unconditional kindness and generosity); and through the Holy Spirit (if people repent and are baptised).</p>	<p>By giving Christians a means by which to be saved, God demonstrates His unconditional love and His power. Because of Original Sin, Christians need a means of salvation – without it, they would be condemned to Hell.</p>	<p>Christians will try to follow God's laws, such as "Love your neighbour," "Forgive seventy times seven times," the Ten Commandments etc. and will repent when they sin. Christians will be baptised in order to receive salvation by the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>"Believe in the Lord and you will be saved." "He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace."</p>
<p>The role of Christ in salvation; atonement Jesus was perfect, committed no sin, and was born without original sin. He did not have to die and could have gone straight to Heaven with God. He chose to die to take the punishment for the sins of other people. Atonement describes the act of humans being reunited with God through the sacrifice that Jesus made.</p>	<p>Without Jesus' death on the cross there would be no salvation. Christians believe that they can only be saved because Jesus has taken the punishment for their sins so they don't have to take their own punishment.</p>	<p>Christians show that they accept Jesus' sacrifice by following his example, giving thankful prayers and being baptised to show their commitment. Christians take care to avoid committing sin and repent (say sorry) when they do commit sin.</p>	<p>"Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." "Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many."</p>

