Understanding The Basics of Our Christian Faith

It is highly important that as Christians we can clearly articulate "What we believe and Why we believe it."

It is important to know the basic Biblical truths that form the unity of the Christian Faith. These ten core truths laid out for us in the Bible, are among the most significant and essential elements that form the basis of Christian Faith.

Let's see what we believe...

1. The Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It teaches the history of mankind's creation and fall, and the promise of salvation through Christ. The Bible has stood the test of time and withstood all the attacks leveled by its critics. Without absolute trust in the pure, inspired Word of God, the Christian has no basis for his faith.

It is the true light - Psalm 119:105
It is eternal and will last forever - Isaiah 40:8
It is from God Himself - 2 Peter 1:19-21
It is the basis of our faith - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

2. God

Everything originates with God. There is no Christian faith without a belief in God. A person MUST have genuine faith in God to be a Christian. *"He who comes to God must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:6).

God is the one and only true eternal God. He is invisible, infinite, unchanging, holy, pure,

sovereign, loving, just, all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful, and present everywhere. To know God is to have eternal life. (John 17:3)

He is the only God - Deuteronomy 6:4
He is the Creator - Genesis 1:1, Psalm 19:1
He is the Holy God - Revelation 4:8-11
He is the Sustainer of all - Colossians 1:16, 17
He is all love - 1 John 4:7-12
He is the all knowing God - 1 Timothy 1:17

3. Jesus Christ

As Christians we have a living relationship with Jesus Christ. But who is he? He is both God and man - human and divine. He was born of a virgin, died in our place, arose from the dead, and ascended to heaven, where he is praying for us, and he will come back to the earth again. A person cannot get to heaven without faith in Jesus Christ. - Acts 4:12.

He is one with God - John 10:30; 14:6
He is unchanging - Hebrews 13:8
He is our Savior - 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4
He is our Redeemer - Galatians 4:4, 5
He is our Mediator - 1 John 4:10
He is our Intercessor - Romans 8:1-4, 34

4. The Holy Spirit

When you accept Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, comes to live within you, as he does every believer. He helps believers lead a holy life. The purpose for the presence of the Holy Spirit is to enable people first to understand God's Word (1 Corinthians. 2:12-14) and then to stay with them as a guarantee that they will get to heaven (Ephesians 1:13-14). All believers share in the same Holy Spirit. Here are a few Bible verses about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

He regenerates us - John 3:6, Titus 3:5
He places us into Christ - 1 Corinthians 12:13
He is our Friend - John 14:15-17, 25-26
He is our Helper - Romans 8:11, 14, 26, 27

5. Angels and Satan

Angels, were created by God to worship Him, and they serve Him and believers. Demons are angels who sinned, and they serve Satan in trying to harm people. Satan is the chief enemy of God, but one day he will be destroyed by Jesus Christ.

Angels are to serve God - Psalm 103:20
Satan is a fallen angel - Revelation 20:7-10
Satan is a deceiver - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
Sin came from Satan - 1 John 3:8, 10
Christ rules over all angels - 1 Peter 3:22; 5:8
Christ has power to judge Angels - 2 Peter 2:4

6. The Sinful Human Race

We need to realize that our humanity binds us together. We were made in the image of God, (Genesis 1:26-27) but this changed when sin entered into the world. When Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God, they led the entire human race into sin. As a result, every person is a sinner and needs salvation through Christ.

God holds mankind guilty of sin - James 2:10
God sent Jesus to save the world - John 3:16
God makes us alive in Jesus - Romans 6:6-14
God rescues us in Christ - Romans 5:12, 17

7. The Church of Jesus Christ

Each believer is a member of the universal and eternal family of God known as the Church. Though there are other churches mentioned in the Bible, the Church family of

this dispensation is called the "Body of Christ" with Christ as its head (Ephesians 1:22-23). The local church is a fellowship of those who belong to Christ's spiritual church on earth. Christians gather together to pray, study and worship God as we see in Acts 2:46-47. We are to join a local church that glorifies God, teaches the Bible, helps Christians grow in Christ, and shares the good news of salvation.

We are Christ's Church - Ephesians 5: 23-29
We are the Household of Faith - Galatians 6:10
We must go to Church - Hebrews 10:24, 25
We are taught in Church - Ephesians 4:11-14
We celebrate the Lord's Supper - 1 Cor. 11:23-26
We emphasize Spirit Baptism - 1 Cor. 12:13

8. The Future Hope of the Church

The blessed hope of Christians in this Church dispensation, is that they wait for Jesus to come in the clouds of the sky, to take them all to heaven. This Rapture or catching up of the Christians, precedes the Return of Christ to earth. They are two separate events.

The Lord will come for His own - 1 Thess. 4:16
Christians are given a new body - 1 Thess. 4:16
Living Christians are changed - 1 Cor. 15: 51-52
All Christians are "Raptured" - 1 Thess 4:17
All Christians go to Heaven - Phil. 3:20-21

9. The Return and Reign of Christ

Approximately seven years after the Rapture, Jesus Christ will return to earth where He will reign for one thousand years. After that He will destroy the present heaven and earth, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth.

He will return to the earth - Zechariah 14:1-4
He will stand on the Mount of Olives - Acts 1:11

He will be the King in Jerusalem - Psalm 2:6, 9
He will destroy the Antichrist - 2 Thess. 2: 8
He will bind Satan for 1000 years - Rev. 20:2-3
He will reign for 1000 years - Revelation 20:4-7
He will make a new heaven and earth - 2 Peter 3:13 Cp. Revelation 16:13-16; 19:11-21; 20:1-6; 21:1-4

10. Heaven and Hell

When a Christian dies, he or she goes immediately into God's presence in heaven, to be with the Lord forever. Those who die without Christ will suffer eternal punishment in hell.

The Christian goes to heaven - John 14:1-3
The place is with the Lord - 2 Corinthians 5:8
The unbeliever will be judged - 2 Thess. 1:4 - 9
The place is eternal hell fire - Revelation 20:15

There are many more wonderful Bible Truths that we believe and love, but these few mentioned above form the basic credo of the Christian faith and practice. They are the major elements of the faith that bind us together in Christ.

If you do not know the Lord Jesus as your own personal Savior and Lord, or would like to know more about the Bible, please contact us for further information.

Understanding the Basics of Christian Faith



Bible CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

PMA PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA 98366
www.prisonmission.org

"PMA provides Bible Correspondence courses in English and Spanish at no cost to inmates"