

# BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

## MADE EASY





## QUICK REFERENCE: 14 KEY CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

**W**HAT are the key beliefs of the Christian faith? The core teachings of the Bible have defined Christianity for two thousand years. Virtually all Christians who seek to have a faith that is biblical hold to some form of these basic beliefs. Christians may not always agree on how they work out the details of their faith, but they mostly agree on certain essential truths:

1. God's Unity
2. God's Tri-unity
3. Human Depravity
4. Christ's Virgin Birth
5. Christ's Sinlessness
6. Christ's Deity
7. Christ's Humanity
8. The Necessity of God's Grace
9. The Necessity of Faith
10. Christ's Atoning Death
11. Christ's Bodily Resurrection
12. Christ's Bodily Ascension
13. Christ's Intercession
14. Christ's Second Coming



## 1. God's Unity

There is one—and only one—God, Creator of the universe (Ex. 20:2–3; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10–11). He has always existed and will always exist.



## 2. God's Tri-unity

While there is only one God, he exists eternally in three Persons. In the Bible, the Father is called God (2 Thess. 1:2), the Son (Jesus) is called God (John 1:1–5; John 10:30–33; John 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Phil. 2:9–11), and the Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3–4, 2 Cor. 3:17). He is one substance but three Persons in relationship (Matt. 3:16–17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). There are more than sixty passages in the Bible that mention the three Persons together.



## 3. Human Depravity

Since God is a personal Being, he wants personal relationships with human beings. Human depravity means that every human is spiritually separated from God, totally incapable of saving himself (Rom. 3:10–11). When Adam sinned, he died spiritually and his relationship with God

was severed. Additionally, all of Adam’s descendants are “dead in trespasses” (Eph. 2:1). Without a new birth (being created anew) no one can enter life (John 3:3).



## 4. Christ’s Virgin Birth

Jesus was born as a result of a miracle (Matt. 1:18–23): Mary, Jesus’ mother, became pregnant without ever having sexual relations. The doctrine of Jesus’ Virgin Birth is not primarily about Mary’s virginity and miraculous conception. Though this miracle fulfilled a preordained prophecy (Isa. 7:14), the reason it is essential has to do with God’s supernatural intervention. Human sin is not merely something we do—it is who we are. It is inborn. Human depravity is transmitted from parents (Ps. 51:5; 1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12–15). Because God interrupted the natural birth process in the case of Jesus, Jesus did not inherit a sin nature. In other words, Jesus not only did not sin, he had no inclination to sin even when tempted. He was perfect.



## 5. Christ’s Sinlessness

Christ was born of a virgin, and he did not suffer the effects of a sin nature. Throughout his life Jesus

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remained sinless (Heb. 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22). Because of sin, humanity could not have a relationship with God; but because Jesus did not sin, he was perfectly able to represent humanity (stand in their place) before God (2 Cor. 5:21).



## 6. Christ's Deity

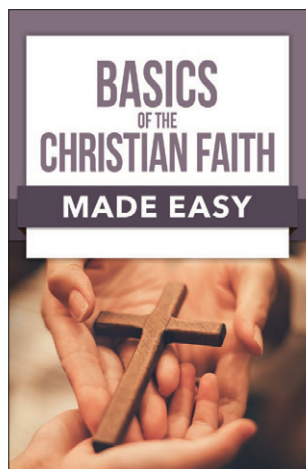
The only way for humans to be restored spiritually to God was for God to build a bridge across the gap of separation. So God, while retaining his full God nature (John 1:1; Heb. 1:8), became a perfect man in Christ in order to bridge the chasm (Col. 2:9). If he is not both God and Man he cannot mediate between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5). Jesus Christ is the second Person in the Trinity.



## 7. Christ's Humanity

Jesus was also fully human. Jesus got tired; he slept; he sweated; he got hungry and thirsty (Heb. 2:14). Without being fully human, Jesus could not pay the price for human sin. He needed to be divine to have the power to *save* humanity, and he needed to be human in order to adequately *represent* humanity (John 1:14; Phil. 2:7). Christ had to be both divine and human.



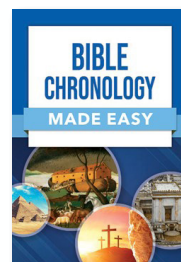


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