

What Is Christianity?

A REVIEW OF THE ESSENTIALS

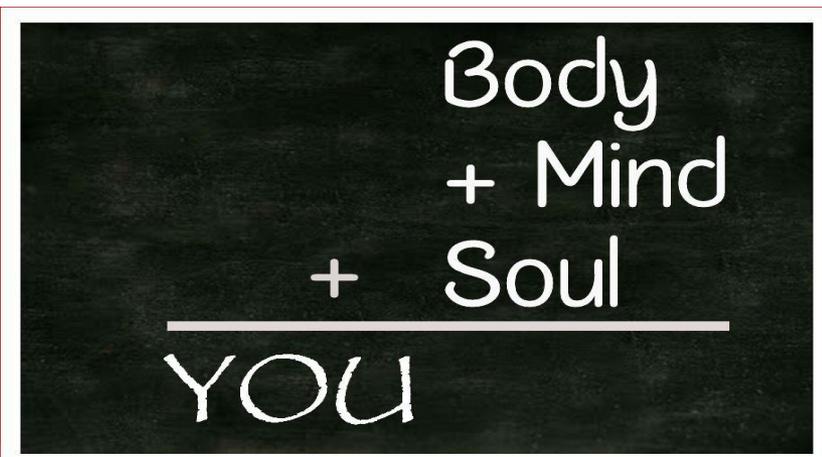
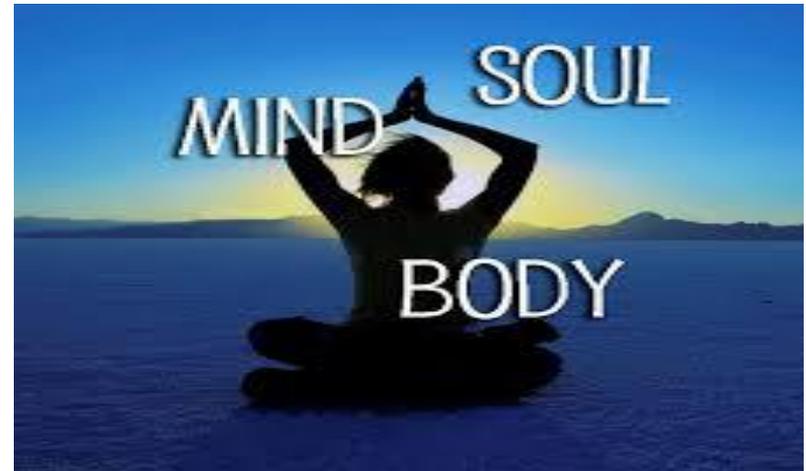
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God as understood in Christianity

Christianity, based on revelation from God in the Bible, believes in one God, elaborates on the nature, essence, of God.

If scientists still struggling to understand animals, birds, the human body, space, and the rest, then it would be much harder to understand God

God is transcendent and there is no analogy could closely resemble Him. Yet, to get a glimpse of His nature, let's use an analogy of **human nature**:

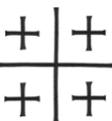
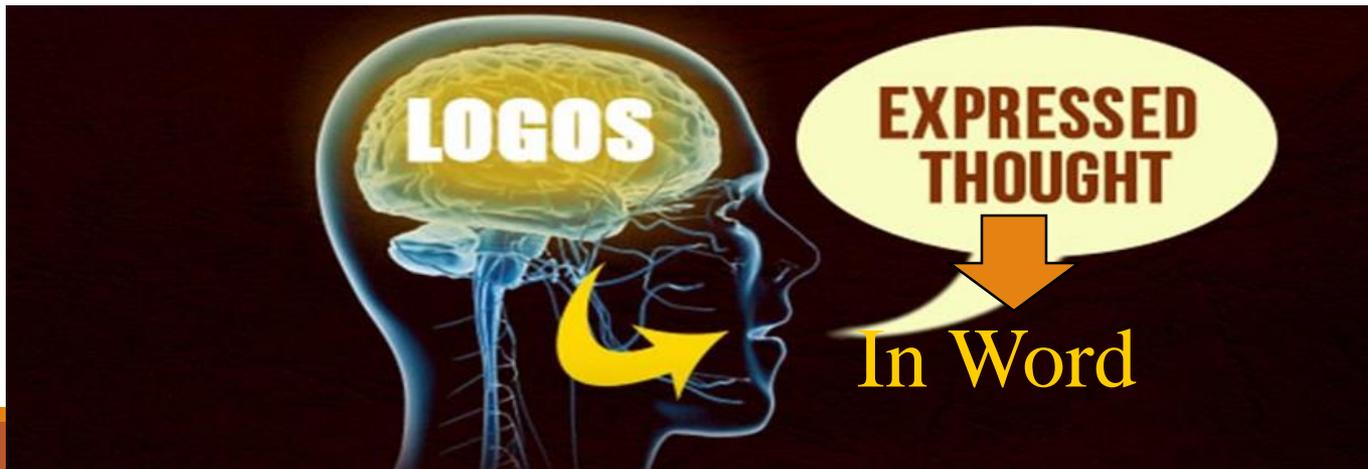


Human Nature

1- **Mind (Logos)**, used in Greek philosophy to mean **logic**): cognitive capabilities.

How does the mind work? By thinking and expressing thoughts using words to form ideas, decisions, & answers.

How do we know what is in a mind? By the spoken or written word of the mind. So, we could use “**Word**” to represent the “**Mind**” (**Logos**)



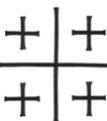
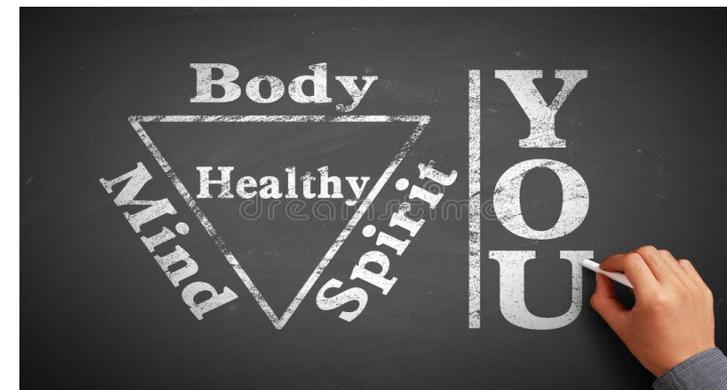
Human Nature

2- **Spirit (soul)**, without it a person is dead

3- **Physical Body**

So, although **a person is one**, yet human nature has: **Mind (Word), Spirit (Soul), & Body**

We never argue saying a person is 3 persons, because we understand a person is one person with three sub- nature. **As a human, I have three sub-nature, but I am one person only**



God as understood in Christianity

God is One. Yet, Christianity, based on **God's revelation**, elaborates on the One God. He is:

1- Self, **the Father** 2- Word (Logos, Mind), **the Son**

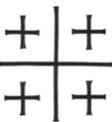
3- Spirit (Life), **the Holy Spirit**

This is *The Trinity doctrine, God is a Triune God*

As a human has a Mind (Word), Spirit, & Body; three sub- nature, but one person, God also, One God, one nature with three *hypostases* (Greek word means “under the stand” i.e. under the One nature of God) the Father, the Son (Word), & the Holy Spirit

So, Although, God is only one, one nature, but has three sub-nature, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.

It is not $1 + 1 + 1$, but it is $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$



God as understood in Christianity

I may say “My mind thinks this way” or I say, “I think.” Here a reference to my mind and to me as one.

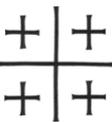
I may say, “My body telling me I am sick” or I say, “I am sick,” a reference to my body and to me as one.

I say, “My soul is sad” or “I am sad,” a reference to my spirit and to me as one.

So, three sub-nature of a human could be expressed as if they are separate while in fact, they are not.

A person could use one of them (body, mind, spirit) to refer to the whole person

This example could resemble God. God is one, yet Has three *hypostases*, each is recognized as God.



God as understood in Christianity

The Trinity was not invented by the Christians, but God, out of Love, reveals Himself in the Bible.

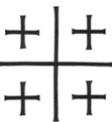
“For there are **three** that bear witness in heaven: **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit**; and **these three are one**” (1 John 5:7)

The “**Word**” in the New Testament is also known as “**The Son**” and “**The Son Of God.**”

“In the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**” (Matthew 28:19)

It is referred to implicitly in the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible):

“Then God said, ‘**Let Us** make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’ “ (Genesis 1:26)



God as understood in Christianity

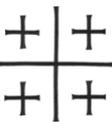
God is a Spirit, has no physical body, so Son of God does not mean God married and had a son.

It's a spiritual birth, similar to “sons of the American revolution,” or as in the book “Son of Egypt.”

It's “light from light,” as when you lit a candle from a candle, or as water flow from a lake into a river

There're 60 Bible passages mentioning the Trinity. The Holy Trinity is revealed in Jesus' baptism:

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’” (Matthew 3:16,17).



God as understood in Christianity

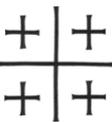
Christians pray saying, “In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **One God**, Amen”

It's not semi-monotheism but is an elaboration of the nature of God. Like telling children that a human has one heart. In an advanced course, a teacher elaborates saying, “A human has one heart and this heart has four chambers.”

Jesus says, “**I am and the Father are one**” (John 10:30)

“**The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God**” (Mark 1:1).

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are from the beginning together in unity.

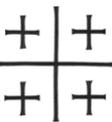


Founder of Christianity

Based on the revelation from God in the Bible, Christianity is based on that Jesus Christ is not a prophet or a messenger, but He is the Word, The Son of God, Who is equal to the Father

Therefore, the founder of Christianity is not just a human being, but God

As it was declared to Mary, “And the angel answered and said to her (Mary), ‘The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of **the Highest** will overshadow you; therefore, also, that **Holy One** who is to be born will be called the **Son of God**’ ” (Luke 1:35).



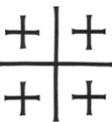
The Founder of Christianity

In Christianity, God did not descend on a person his name Jesus Christ nor did He make Jesus a man of power and miracles

But the “Word,” “the Son” was incarnated in the womb of Virgin Mary. Therefore, He was born in a way comparable to His holiness, from a saintly virgin, different from all humanity.

Mary gave birth to **Jesus Christ** who **is both full human** in every aspect, except sin (He did not commit any sin) **and full divine, the Word**.

In His life on earth, He shows humanity the best image of God in His behaviors, teachings, love, justice, miracles, acceptance of all, because He was not emulating God, but He is God.



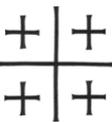
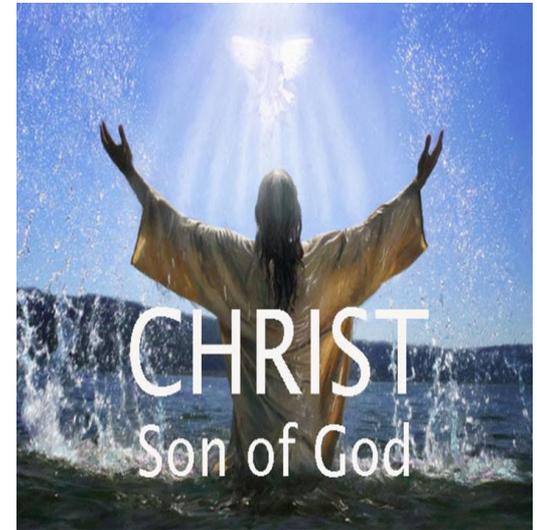
The Core Faith of Christianity

So, the main personality in Christianity is Jesus Christ and the faith in Christ as the Son of God is the core of the Christian faith.

In the first verse of the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark, Christians read,

“ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God ” (Mark 1:1).

He is the same God of Judaism, but appeared in the flesh to save humanity and offer new birth, salvation, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life to everyone believes in Him



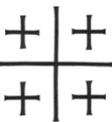
Christian Faith in Jesus Christ

Christians faith is based on revelation in the Bible that Jesus Christ is God Incarnate

Oxford scholar Alfred Edersheim cites 400 prophecies in the Bible predicting Christ's detailed life, written from 1500 to 400 years before His birth (evidence)

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a **Son** is given... And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting ..**, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

“Behold, **the virgin** shall conceive and bear a **Son**, and shall call His name **Immanuel** (God among us) (Isaiah 7:14).

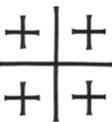


Prophecies about Jesus Christ

“But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, everyone, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”

(Isaiah 53: 5,6) [Isaiah lived 700 years before Christ)

“Great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh**”
(1Timothy 3:16)



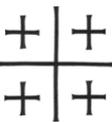
Christian Faith in Jesus Christ ?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father (John 1:1-14).

Jesus says, “**I and My Father are one**” (John 10:30).

Jesus said after his crucifixion, death, & ascension to heaven, “**I am the first and the last**, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever” (Revelation 1:17-18).

Christ raised himself from death. Only God can raise himself from death

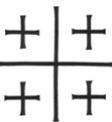


Did Jesus Prove that He is God Incarnate?

Based on the Bible and history, Jesus Christ offers compelling evidence in front of numerous witnesses, including his enemies, proving He is God Incarnate.

The purpose of His miracles:

- 1- Not to show off or to concentrate on miracles
- 2- To let people conclude who He is, God in the flesh, by doing things only God does
- 3- To show His love and compassion to humanity
- 4- To let people trust His ability and words, so when He will talk about the power of His salvation, giving people spiritual new birth enabling them to live spiritually full of inner-peace & joy and promising eternal life, it will be easy for them to believe Him



Did Jesus Prove that He is God Incarnate?

He did what God alone can do:

1- **Creation**: He created wine out of water(John 2) &

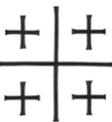
created an eye for a person born without eyes (John 9)

2- **Authority over life and death**: Raised Lazarus after being dead for four day (John 11)

Jesus after his crucifixion, He raised himself from death after three days in the tomb (Mark 16).

Jesus says, “I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades” (Rev 1:17,18 NIV)

3- **Authority over nature**: Stopped a storm (Luke 8) & walked on the water



Did Jesus Prove that He is God Incarnate ?

Accepted people worship (John 9) and people calling him Lord & God. “Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” (John 20:28)

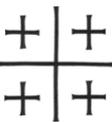
Declared that He is equal to the Father and said “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30)

Performed miracles without praying but by order

Lived without sin: He faced his enemies “Which of you convicts Me of sin?” (John 8: 64)

Omnipresence: Jesus says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20).

4- **Authority to cast demons** by ordering them, without prayers or supplication (Mark 6)



Did Jesus Prove that He is God Incarnate ?

He declared that, “No one has **ascended to heaven** but He who came down from **heaven, that is**, the Son of Man who is in **heaven**” (John 3:13)

Eternal, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8: 58)

He **ascended to heaven** without any help, witnessed by many people (Acts 1)

He **forgave people’s sins** (Luke 7)

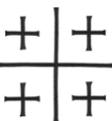
He told of His crucifixion and resurrection (Luke 9:22)

He **lived the purest life** a person ever lived

The Father declared, “**This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Mark 9:7)

Watch the video “The Life of Jesus Christ’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emz9UOPDNgE>



Did Jesus Prove that He is God Incarnate ?

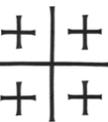
Lived without sin: He faced his enemies “Which of you convicts Me of sin?”
(John 8: 64)

He performed his miracles publicly where hundreds were witnesses.

When a judge examine a case, he/she asks for: 1- Evidence 2- Witnesses

1- Jesus’s miracles, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to heaven done before many witnesses

2- He gave numerous evidence proving that he is the incarnate God. Raising Lazarus from death after four days is beyond the ability of anyone.



Did Jesus Prove that He is God Incarnate ?

“**God is love**” (1 John 4:8). When you love someone, you like to communicate with and visit

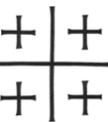
We don't see electricity passing through a wire, but when the wire connected to a lamp, it shines, showing the presence of electricity. God's incarnation shows His presence and His love of humanity

In Christianity, God came to humanity to offer:

- I) *His Fatherly love and spiritual salvation*
- II) *New spiritual birth and grace*
- III) *Friendship: God is not a merciless god, but a loving one*

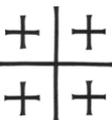
In Christianity, God offer grace to help people and promise of eternal life to the believers.

God does not ask people to sacrifice for him but He was a sacrifice to forgive their sins. He freely gives righteousness, peace, & joy.



“**God’s Final Word**: His Son

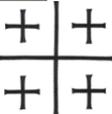
“**In the past God spoke** to our ancestors **through the prophets** at many times and in various ways, but **in these last days he** has **spoken** to us **by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **The Son is** the radiance of God’s glory and **the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had **provided purification for sins, he sat** down at the right hand of **the Majesty in heaven**” (Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV)



Salvation in Christianity

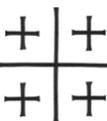
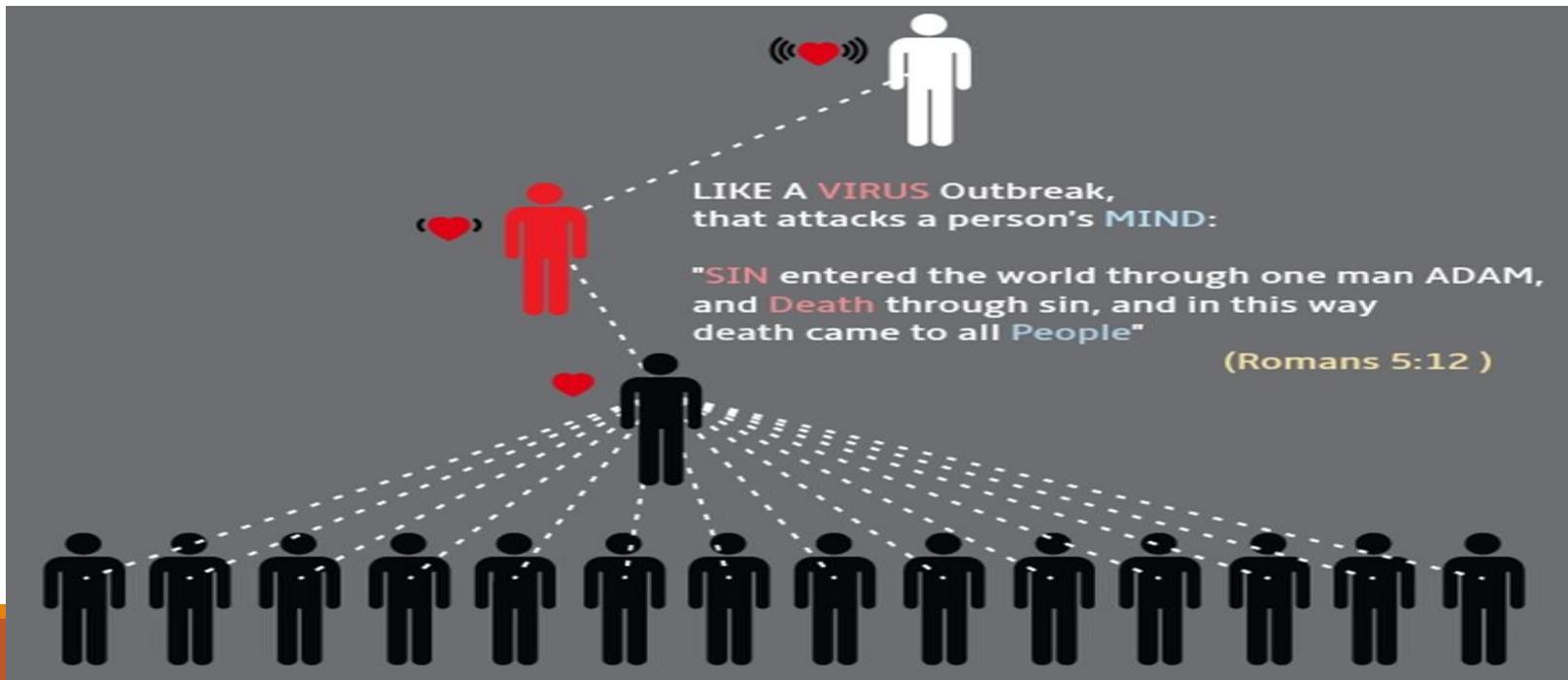
The need for **spiritual cleansing**, forgiveness of sins, and salvation are inbuilt desires of all humanity, as it is shown in the photos in Omambala River in Anambra, Nigeria and in Bali, Indonesia

Animal sacrifices offered as an atonement for one's sins, an effort to make up for the sins or wrongdoings, were practiced in many religions, including Judaism by God's commandment.



Salvation in Christianity

When Adam & Eve sinned, the grace of God left them, so they became without spiritual protection **sin entered human life as a spiritual virus**, corrupting the human nature. As a corruption of a laptop occurred when copying a corrupted memory card into it, corrupted human nature transformed from one generation to the next.



Salvation in Christianity

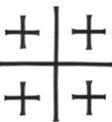
Originally, human nature was good until the fall of Adam and Eve. Afterward, lust, evil desires, impure hearts and thoughts became as a second nature.

New human nature, the new birth is needed

As every state is governed by laws that punish the outlaws, heaven's law prohibits sinners from entering it.

the wages of sin is death

death awaits every person



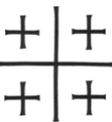
Salvation in Christianity

In addition, All human rituals, sacrifices, cleansing, ascetism, and other efforts to reach a righteous life failed drastically

They don't give people a permanent feeling of satisfying God or forgiveness of sins or assured happy eternity

With lust temptations, evil desires, and impure hearts, people feel they would overcome evil.

Therefore, god came to offer what humanity cannot reach: new nature capable of reaching righteousness, transformation, salvation. All only offered by Jesus Christ on the cross.



Salvation in Christianity

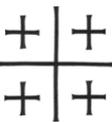
Why God does not offer forgiveness?

Could a judge release a person from a death sentence? No. Same applied to God. **God is just** and would not deny himself, like an honest person would not change his honesty and integrity.

What is the solution?

A person without death sentence dies as a substitute for every human, a Savior.

“God is love. God’s love revealed to us in this way: God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (1 John 4:8)



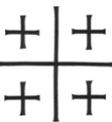
Salvation in Christianity (6)

Who could save humanity?

- 1- A person who is without sin and willing to die
- 2- His atonement must be unlimited to cover for all the sins of humanity
- 3- Able to regenerate human nature, give new birth

God was faced with two options,

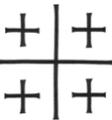
- (1) Let humanity dies eternally, Or
- (2) He becomes the Savior of humanity, since he is the only one who can offer salvation (He is without sin and able to do all what is needed for salvation)



Salvation in Christianity

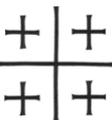
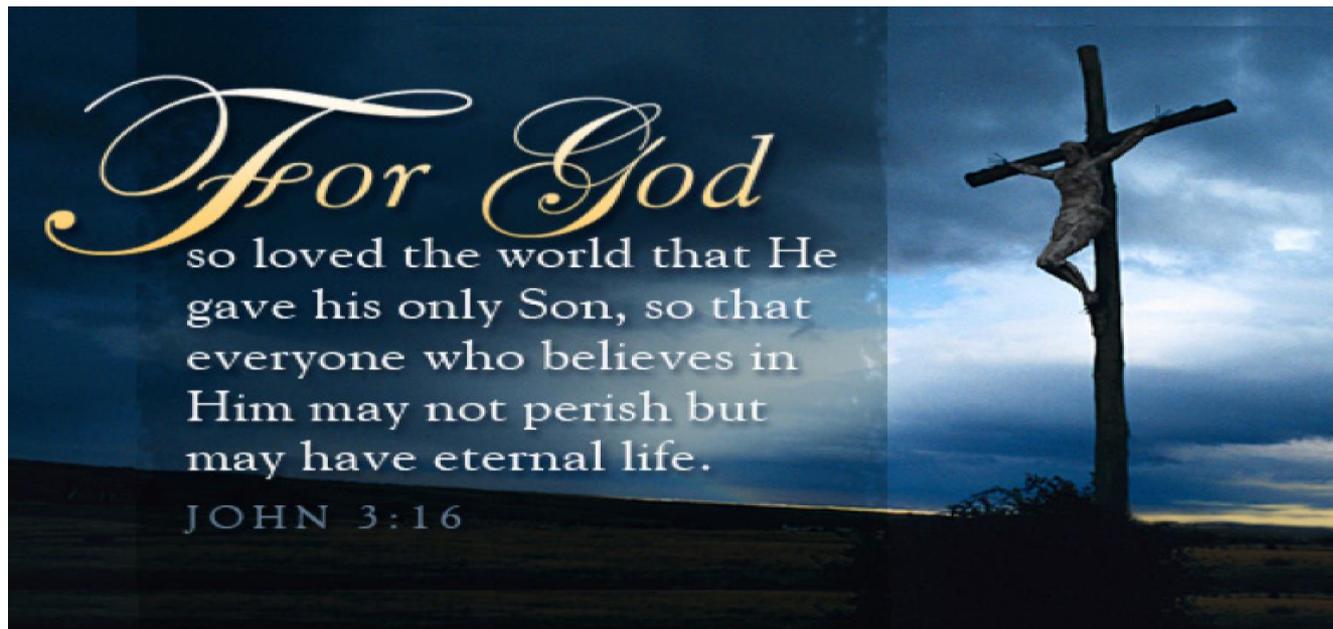
Analogy: Suppose a loving mother and her daughter faced with a criminal pointing a gun at them. Do you think the mother would stand in front of her daughter and take the bullet for her daughter? Yes, she will. **If God is a loving one, *Would God die for humanity?***

When a fire was spreading to a farm, a chicken and her kids faced with its flames. The chicken stretched her wings and let her chicks come under. It faced the fire and was burned. When firemen had arrived, they found the chicken dead, but the chicks were alive. ***Would a loving God die for his children?***



Salvation in Christianity

Therefore, God came to earth to offer what humanity cannot reach, not only salvation and forgiveness of sins, but also a new human nature, new birth capable of reaching righteousness.



Salvation of the world by God

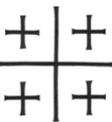
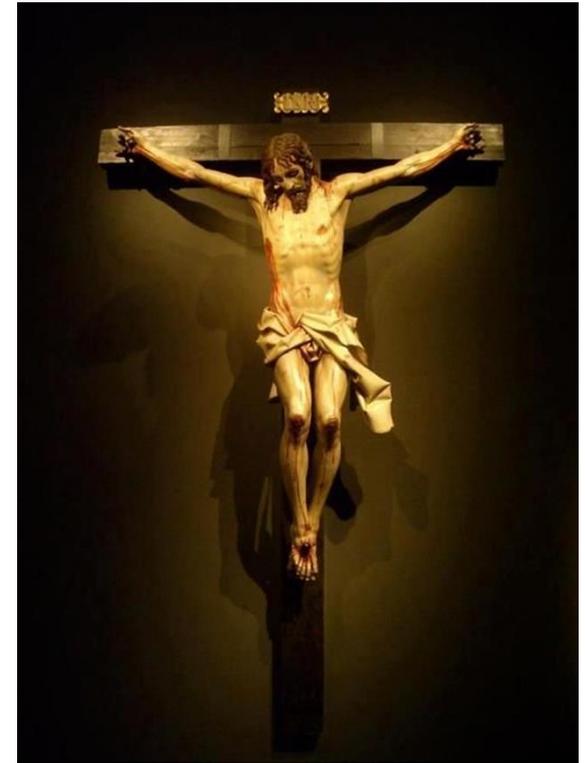
“In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree (cross), ...by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

How a person would be saved?, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16)

Baptism is submergence in holy water

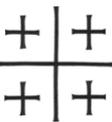


Jerusalem's Annual Easter Miracle: The Holy Fire

Every year on Holy Saturday a miracle takes place in Jesus tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, where Christ was entombed, and rose from the dead. The miracle of the Holy Fire has taken place at the same time since the eighth century, in the same manner, in the same place every single year for centuries.

The patriarch entered the tomb and pray, a light emits from the tomb which is used to light the candles of everyone in the church.

Jesus Christ continue to prove himself every year with light of resurrection



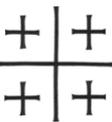
How did Christianity spread out?

Christ did not choose rich people, militant, or even politicians to help, but to the contrary he selected poor illiterate fishermen as disciples

Christianity spread out by a few factors:

- 1- The great moral changes of people converted to Christianity
- 2- The compelling miracles performed by Christians
- 3- The joy and inner peace Christians enjoyed

Christianity faced by fierce persecution during its first three centuries. But resulted in seven millions converters, among them 2 million martyrs.



DIVISION OF NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

BIOGRAPHY

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

HISTORY

Acts

LETTERS

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

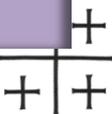
2 John

3 John

Jude

PROPHECY

Revelation



Christian Bible

Christian Bible: Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) & New Testament (testament = covenant)

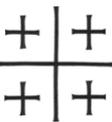
Synoptic Gospels “viewing together” – they have so much in common. They are Mark, Matthew, & Luke

Mark – the oldest of the Gospels and the primary source for later versions of Matthew and Luke. It was written for the Romans

Matthew – it was written for a Jewish audience – e.g. Jesus is the Messiah

Luke – he was a physician and a researcher. Writing to the Greek, the educated, he focused on the new teaching and miracles.

John – the theological gospel



The Christian Bible

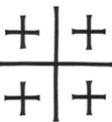
Acts of the Apostles: the story of the early church and Paul's missionary journeys, written by Luke.

The Epistles “letters”: containing spiritual instructions, fulfilling the needs of believers, and sometimes addressing church's problems.

It has Two Parts

1- Pauline Epistles, written by Paul: Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews.

2- Universal Epistles: written by other apostles: James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude.



The Book of Revelation

Revelation (Apocalypse = unveiling): the final book of the New Testament, a revelation to John the apostle

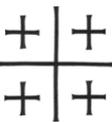
It contains spiritual instructions and eschatology

Uses symbolic language: seven seals, seven trumpets, the lamb, horses, the beast with the mark 666 (the Antichrist)

The Judgement Day

End of evil & suffering

Description of heaven where good people rewarded and eternal fire for the devil and his followers

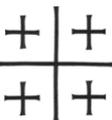


The Sermon on the Mount

- 3“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- 5Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- 6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- 7Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- 8Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- 9Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.
- 10Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon on the Mount

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matt 5: 43 – 48).



Jesus' Teachings

Focused on the kingdom of God

- Standards of human conduct (acceptance, love, mercy)
- Merciful God Who accepts sinners and considers human weakness
- Personal God -“Our Father,” He seeks heart & sincerity, not appearance

Used stories and parables to teach

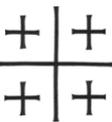
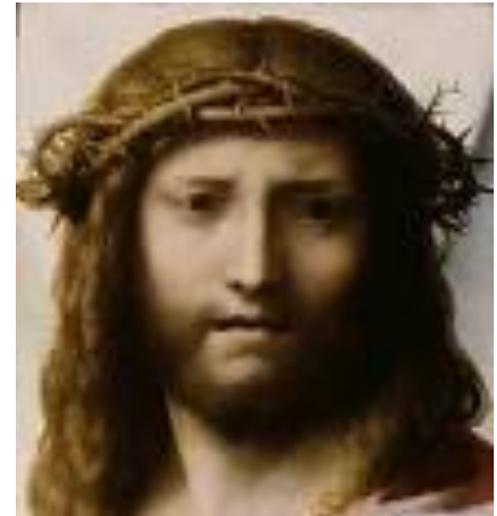
Known as a miracle worker and faith healer

Religious and social reformer

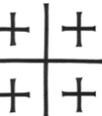
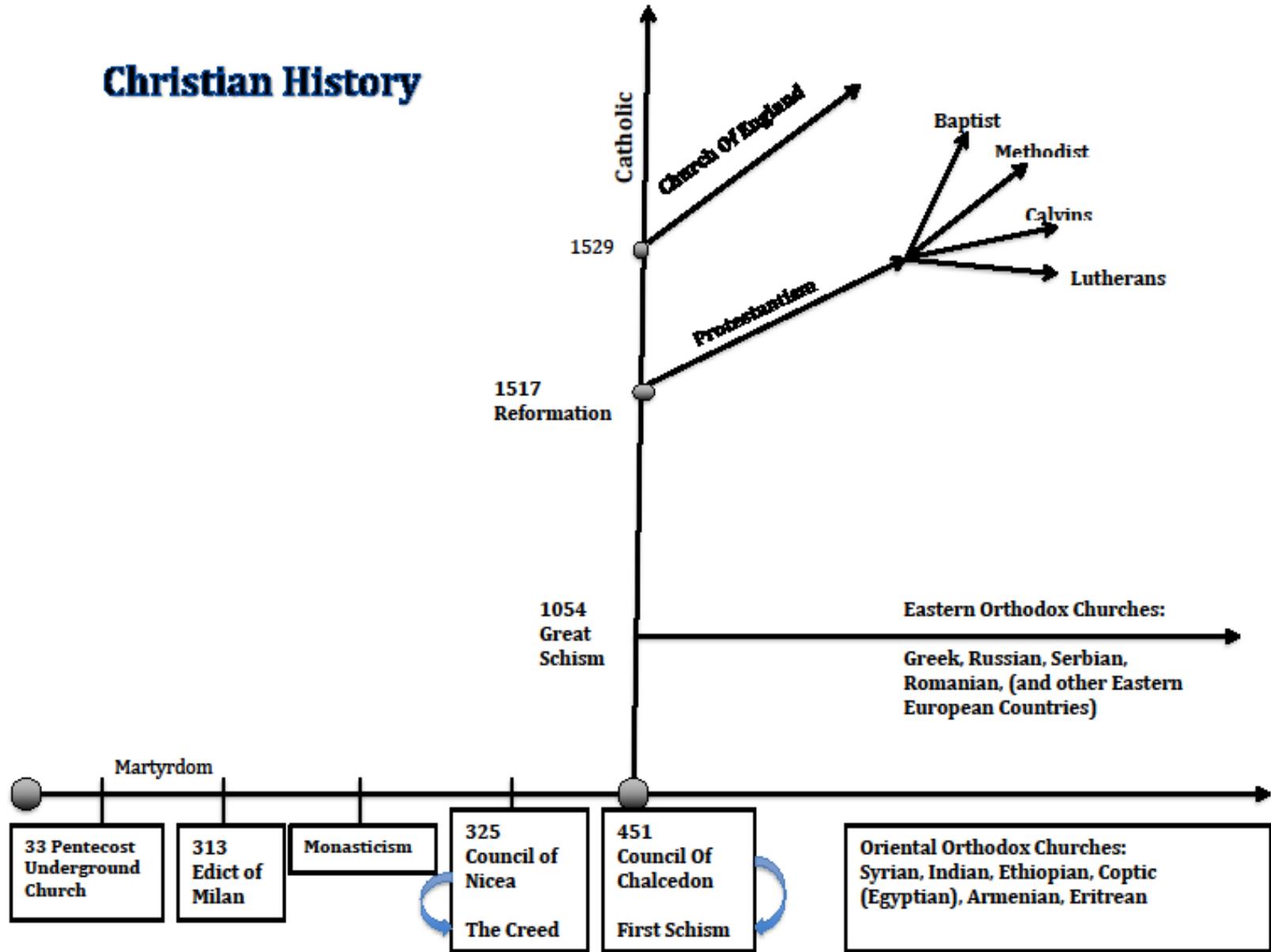
- Accepted a variety of people: sinners, enemies, women
- Go from Law and rituals to transforming life

Preached forgiveness of sins over punishment for sin

- Instead of rituals, accepting His grace and inner peace



Christian History



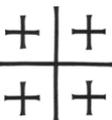
History of Christianity

Five big centers of Christianity in Jerusalem, Antioch (Syria), Rome, Alexandria (Egypt), & Constantine (Turkey)

First ecumenical council at Nicaea (325 AD), where the CREED was started.

Christianity enjoyed five centuries without division, a period of reference for worship, theology, dogma, and spirituality

Chalcedon Ecumenical Council witnessed the first division in Christianity (451 AD), where Oriental Orthodox Churches started.

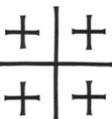


The Christian Creed

We believe in one God, God the Father the Almighty who created heaven and earth, and all things seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not created, of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy spirit and the Virgin Mary and became Man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried.

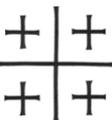


The Christian Creed

And on the third day He rose from the dead, according to the scriptures, ascended to the heavens; He sits at the right hand of his Father, and He is coming again in His glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Life-Giver, Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And in one holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic church. We confess one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the coming age. Amen.



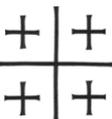
History of Christianity

In 1054 AD, the Great Schism occurred, where Eastern Orthodox Churches started

Catholic Church administration in Europe experienced corruption because of creeping politics and money (Jesus, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” No politics in religion)

The Protestant Reformation started by Martin Luther (1483- 1546) as a protest against corruption

Luther’s deeds did not free him of his sins. He found the Bible teaches that Jesus’ sacrifice is sufficient for forgiveness of all sins and His grace is the helper (not what the church teaches at his time)



History of Christianity

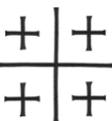
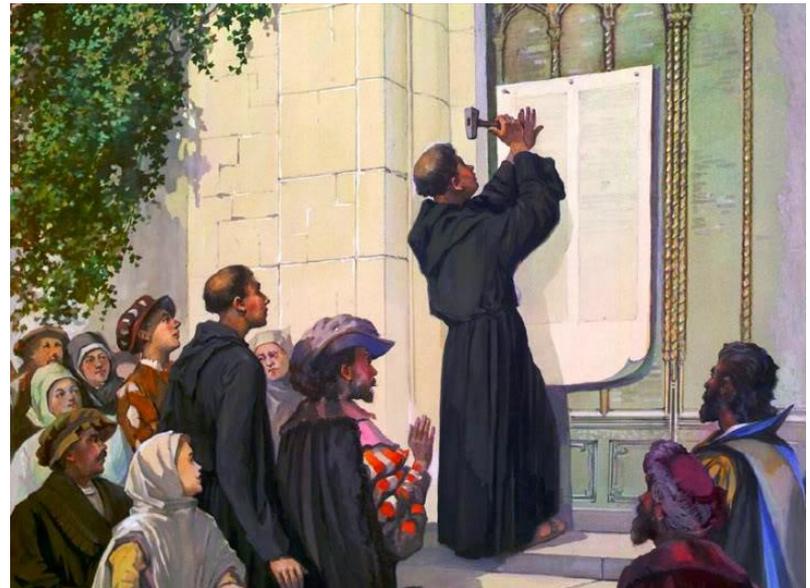
In 1517 AD Luther posts his *95 Theses*, a list of demands for reform of the Catholic Church.

The church excommunicated him

He started a church based on following Bible alone and individual biblical interpretations

Consequently, Protestantism started, opening the door to thousands of individual denominations.

Yet, all Christians have the same faith, the Christian Creed. Their differences are minors



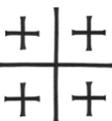
Catholic vs. Protestant Beliefs

CATHOLIC

- 1- Good work & faith
- 2- Bible & Tradition
- 3- Church guided biblical interpretation
- 4- Hierarchical authority: Pope, bishops
- 5- Sacraments: as baptism and ordination
- 6- Communion of saints

PROTESTANT

- 1- Salvation thru faith
- 2- Bible alone
- 3- Individual biblical interpretation
- 4- None
- 5- No sacraments, though there're baptism and ordination
- 6- No relations with saints



Christian Holy Days

- Please keep in mind that though there are holy days observed by all Christians, each denomination decides on other holy days.

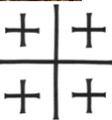
- **Two major seasons in the Christian calendar:** y days,

Christmas – celebrating the birth of Jesus

Easter – commemorating the resurrection of Christ

Christmas:

- **Advent (before Christmas day)**
- **Christmas Day (December 25th)**
- **Epiphany (the “twelfth day of Christmas”)**



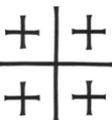
Christian Holy Days

Easter: (early spring, date varies)

- **Ash Wednesday and Lent** (40 days before Easter, a period of sacrifice, or fasting, and spiritual renewal in preparation for Easter)
- **Holy Week** including:
 - **Palm Sunday** (Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem)
 - **Maundy Thursday** (communion meal/Last Supper)
 - **Good Friday** (Jesus' Passion and crucifixion)
 - **Easter Sunday** (celebrating the resurrection)



Pentecost: the 50th day (seven weeks) after Easter (commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles)



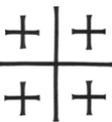
The Christian Worldview

The Bible – God’s plan for believers that is included in the Old and New Testaments. Literal words of God vs. written by humans but inspired by God.

Angels – Intelligent, bodiless beings created by God to help humans. Satan is the archrival angel.

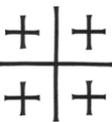
Human Life – Humans should strive to help one another, perfect themselves, and prepare for the afterlife.

Afterlife – We possess immortal souls and will ultimately be rewarded in heaven or punished in hell. Some Christians also believe in purgatory (intermediate state).



Religious Practices

- 1) ***Calendar, Feasts & Fasts:***
Advent & **Christmas**; Lent & **Easter**; saints' days; local & universal festivals
- 2) ***Public / Communal Worship:***
official masses, liturgies, rites, rituals, Sacraments, esp. Baptism & Eucharist; Sunday worship
- 3) ***Private / Individual Spirituality:***
prayer, devotions, pilgrimages, asceticism, retreats, pious/spiritual practices, monasticism, etc.
- 4) ***Fasting*** in most of the Orthodox Churches are longer: every Wednesday & Friday, Advent, Lent, & the apostles. Abstain from food & drink followed by eating vegetarian food.
- 5) ***Prayers*** ranges from seven prayers a day to two



Summary of Christianity

Christianity shows the love of God. He came to earth to prove His love and to call people to love each other.

Jesus Christ is not a prophet but is God incarnate. He didn't use military power or force to spread Christianity, but miracles and changing lives to the better.

Christ offers salvation, forgiveness of sins, acceptance of sinners, assurance of going to heaven, inner-peace, joy, things a person cannot reach thru personal efforts.

Believers are not slaves of God but friends of God and His beloved children, given free will and grace.

Concentration not on commandments and mandatory rituals but on giving people love, inner transformation,

Every claim is supported by compelling evidence and witnesses.

