

Christian beliefs Revision Sheet

The Nature of God

God is monotheistic. 'We believe in one God.' - Nicene Creed

God is not restricted by physical form like humans.

God is holy - perfect and above everything else. He is worthy of praise. The Bible says 'He is a **holy God**.'

The Nature of God and how it impacts Christians lives today

One God - only believe in and worship God

God is holy - do not praise anything else and call nothing perfect except God

Qualities of God

God is just - he decides what is right and wrong. 'All his ways are **just**.' Bible

God is omnibenevolent - 'For God so loved the world he gave his one and only son.' Bible

God is omnipotent - 'nothing is impossible for God.' Bible

God is immanent (personal) - 'God is near to all who call on him.' Bible

God is transcendent (impersonal) - 'Who has known the mind of God?' Bible

Problem of evil and suffering makes some people think God is not like this.

The Qualities of God and how it impacts Christians lives today

Christians will try to follow all of his teachings as they know they will be judged fairly when they die.

Christians will be loving to others.

Christians will pray to God so that he can help them in the world or their lives.

Trinity

There is only one God

Each person of the Trinity is fully God

The persons of the Trinity are not the same

Like H₂O Ice, Water and Steam

God the Father - created the world and is omnipotent, omnibenevolent and omniscient. 'Our father in heaven.' - The Lord's prayer.

Jesus - The Son of God who came to earth through the person of Jesus. He lived, died and then rose again.

Holy Spirit - Christians believe when Jesus went to heaven God sent the Holy Spirit to guide and help Christians

Creation Stories

God made the world and he thought that it was good!

Everything was made with a purpose and an order.

The Christian Creation story suggest that God made the Universe over 6 days and rested on the 7th day.

It start off with God saying 'Let there be light' and finished with humans being his final creation on the 6th day.

How John and Genesis 1 shows the Trinity through their creation account¹

In Genesis 1 it says that 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the water.'

In Genesis 1 it also says 'God' singular.

In Genesis 1 it says 'God spoke'...which links to John 1 where John says that The Word (spoken by God) became flesh.

In John 1 it also says that the 'only Son, who came from the Father.'

Alternative view of how the world was made

The Big Bang Theory

CREATION STORY #1	CREATION STORY #2
1. God created HUMANS AFTER He created everything else. (Gen 1:26-27)	1. God created HUMANS BEFORE He created everything else. (Gen 2:7)
2. God created MAN and WOMAN at the SAME TIME . (Gen 1:27)	2. God created MAN first . After that, He created animals . Then, He created WOMAN . (Gen 2:21-23)
3. God just SPOKE , and from His Words, everything came into existence.	3. God had to "WORK" in order to create (form human beings from <u>dust</u> , breathe life into them, get a rib from Man to create Woman, etc.).
4. After Creation, God looked at all He has done and was greatly pleased and happy . (Gen 1:31- 2:4)	4. God banished the FIRST COUPLE (Adam and Eve) from the Garden of Eden in His Anger at their Disobedience. (Gen 3:24)

Scientists have discovered that when looking into space using powerful telescopes, the stars and galaxies seem to be moving apart. They've also discovered 'background radiation' which they believe is the remains of a huge cosmic explosion. Based on this evidence, they have concluded that the Universe must have started from an explosion billions of years ago which formed everything we see today. This explains why the stars and galaxies are still moving apart today.

The Theory of Evolution

Charles Darwin studied birds and animals to develop his Theory of Evolution. He believes that all life started off as basic organisms like bacteria, and that over billions of years life has adapted to suit its surroundings through mutation and natural selection. This Theory suggests that humans evolved from ape like creatures, who themselves would have evolved from more basic creatures. Fossil records provide evidence of very small changes and adaptations of all living creatures over vast periods of time which support this theory.

Literal Christians: These types of Christians accept the Bible as the 'literal word of God' and therefore an absolute fact.

Liberal Christians: These types of Christians believe that the Bible contains many truths, but that they have to be interpreted and are not to be taken literally.

Incarnation and how Christians know Jesus is the Son of God.

'Before Mary had sex, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.'

Bible

When Jesus was baptised a voice from Heaven said, 'You are my Son.' Bible

Crucifixion

Cross - symbolises Jesus' death on the cross as an atonement for our sin, but it is empty and does not have him on it, so it also points to his resurrection.

Crucifix - Jesus is on the cross and so reminds Christians of his death as an atonement for Christians sin.

Impact that the crucifixion would have on Christians?

They would be thankful. - 'Jesus suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.'

They will be willing to forgive others. 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.'

Christians are sure that they will no longer suffer for their sins but they are forgiven. 'Forgive them for they know not what they are doing.'

Why is the resurrection and ascension important?

Resurrection - Jesus rising from the dead on Easter day

Ascension - the event 40 days after the resurrection when Jesus returned to God in heaven.

Christians believe that it shows the power of good over evil

It gives confidence that if they follow Jesus and believe his teaching they too will be forgiven and resurrected

The ascension shows that Jesus was the Son of God and is now with God

Other possible explanations for the resurrection

The whole story was made up because the disciples had given up so much for Jesus they did not want to believe he was just a normal human being.

People stole the body so that they could claim the story to be true and keep the story about Jesus going

Why do Christians believe in life after death?

St Paul teaches resurrection. 'Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.'

They believe Jesus was resurrected. 'Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.'

All the Christian Churches teach that Jesus was resurrected

Apostles' Creed on the afterlife

1. Jesus ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

2. From heaven he will come to judge the living and the dead.

3. I believe in...the resurrection of the body.

4. and the life everlasting.

Heaven and Hell

Heaven - where God is and where faithful Christians will spend eternity with God. Some believe it is a spiritual place, others believe there will be a new earth which will be heaven.

Hell - where God is not. Some Christians believe that it is where humans who were not faithful to God will be punished for eternity. Others believe that hell is stopping from existing.

Purgatory - the intermediate state where souls are cleansed of sin to go to heaven

Hell for eternity?

'and the life everlasting.' - Apostles Creed

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Hell as destruction

'They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.'

Original sin

Original Sin - this is the belief that we all naturally have the urge to sin which is passed down through humans by birth.

... I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... St Paul

The role of Jesus in Salvation

Atonement - Restoring the relationship between people and God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

'He (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.' Bible

Through his death and resurrection, he overcame the devil and evil powers in the world, showing he was stronger.

Jesus' death and resurrection means that if they believe in him they can receive forgiveness for past sins.

Jesus volunteered to take the punishment for sin and to die in our place. He was atonement (payment) for human sin

How do we get salvation (sent to heaven)?

Works - sheep and goats. Sheep did good deeds like feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Goats did not do good deeds. Sheep will be told 'Come you who are blessed...take your inheritance.'

Faith - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Why the crucifixion is important

Jesus volunteered to take the punishment for sin. 'For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners.' Bible

It shows God's love for humans. 'God demonstrates His own love toward us, as Christ died for us.' - Bible

