

“The Basics of Christianity” Introduction & Overview

What do we mean by “Basics”

1. By definition the word basic means a _____ and or _____ element.
2. For the purposes of this class; the Basics of Christianity are the essential and or fundamental elements of Christianity that we should know and understand.
3. Why is this important?
 - We are _____ to (I Peter 3:15, Jude 3, Philippians 1:7, Matthew 22:37, Romans 12:2)
 - To assist us in answering _____ teaching (II Corinthians 10:5-6, II Timothy 2:24-25)
 - Because _____ demands it (Genesis 1:26, Isaiah 1:18, Jude 10, Colossians 3:9-10).....**Nobody ever came to faith because they thought it was absurd to do so! Therefore belief in something requires belief that it is in fact true!**
 - To save Christianity from _____

To be ignorant and simple now, not to be able to meet the enemies on their ground, would be to throw down our weapons and betray our uneducated brethren who have, under God, no defense but us against the intellectual attacks of the heathen. Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered (Weight of Glory, 50).

What do we mean by Christianity?

1. The essence of Christianity is to follow _____.
 - It is not simply a religion that teaches us how to go to heaven
 - It defines or describes God's _____ plan that set things "right"
2. The central claim of Christianity is - Jesus is _____. (Acts 4:12, John 14:6)
3. Once a person realizes that this central claim is true then we must do as He commands which takes place through _____.

Defining our terms:

1. The Difference between *Belief* and *Faith*:

- Belief is an _____ ascent to a creed and or teaching
- Faith involves _____
- One can have belief without faith (James 2:19) but not faith without belief.
- Faith therefore is placing your trust in that which you know to be true (faith = belief + trust)
- What faith is not:
 - 1) It is not a _____ leap into the dark (Hebrews 11:1)
 - 2) It is not wishing upon a star or hoping that God exists and we know this because there is clear evidence that He in fact does exist. (Psalm 19, Romans 1-2)
 - 3) To deny the existence of God does not prove that He doesn't exist.....but to deny His existence simply means one is choosing to be confused by the facts!

2. **What do Grace, Sin, and Justification mean?**

- A central doctrine of Christianity is; “We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - 1) Since faith is belief + trust; what do we mean when we say we are saved by grace?
 - 2) Why do we need God’s grace?
- **Grace** (*karis*) is best defined as:
 - 1) Unmerited or unearned favor and privilege to us from God
 - 2) It is receiving something that we _____ deserve
 - 3) Mercy is not receiving something we _____ deserve
- **Sin** (*hamartia*)
 - 1) The Greek word actually means to _____ the mark
 - 2) Romans 3:23 describes it this way; “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”.
 - 3) What is God’s mark or what does He require of us? (I Peter 1:15-16)
 - 4) Since sin separates us from God (Romans 3:23) – how then can we come before Him since it is impossible to earn His favor? (Romans 5:8-10)
- **Justification** means to be given the status of _____

3. **Redemption—the Purpose of faith; Sanctification—the Pursuit of faith**

- The one key element is that our faith must be in Jesus Christ and His act of redemption – nothing more and nothing less! (Acts 4:12, John 14:6)
- **Redemption** refers to Christ's work on the cross as payment for our sins.
 - 1) What is the penalty for sin? (Romans 6:23)
 - 2) What is the payment for our sin? (Ephesians 1:7)
- **Sanctification** is to be _____ **to God** and _____ **from the world**. (Romans 12:1-2, II Corinthians 5:17, 20, Ephesians 2:5, 4:22-32, 5:1-20, 6:10-24)
 - 1) Separation is the key to Sanctification
 - 2) Sanctification is the act of pursuing holiness and consecrating oneself to God through the act of obedience and dedication to His precepts (The Word of God).
 - 3) The ultimate result or hope for all Christians is _____ which is when this corrupt body puts on incorruption. (I Corinthians 15)

4. Other important terms:

- **Gospel** (*euangelion*)—"good news"—the good news that Jesus Christ is Lord, and if you confess this with your mouth and believe in your heart you will be saved (Rom. 10:9).
- **Trinity**—there is one God (Deut. 6:4; Is. 44:6; Is. 45:5) who exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each person is God (*Father is God*, Gal. 1:1; *Son is God*, John 1:1; John 8:58; John 20:28; Col. 2:9; *the Spirit is God*, Acts 5:3-4; Heb. 9:14) and God is one...Not 3 God's.
- **Incarnation**—Latin= "in carne"; Greek= "en sarke"—Thus, God coming into the Flesh—Jesus (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:7)....Thus when we talk about Jesus we call him "The Word incarnate" or "God incarnate".
- **Covenant**—an agreement between two parties (in the Bible it is an agreement between God and man with God living up to his end but man seldom living up to his)—The Old Covenant=the Law—The New Covenant=Grace.
- **Christian**— Was the name given to the followers of Jesus Christ (Acts 11:26; cf. Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16) in Antioch (Syria). Christians used other terms ("brethren"; "the faithful"; the "elect" etc.) The point is that "Christian" refers to one who follows Christ as Lord (not one who believes in God and goes to Church!).
- **Atonement**—reconciliation between God and man. The word comes over from an Anglo-Saxon word which means "a making at one (Thus, "at—one—ment"). The atonement refers to the process whereby we are reconciled to God, and it is because of Christ's atoning work on the cross.
- **Doctrine**—a "truth" that is taught. A teaching or belief. (a dogma)