



What Is Christianity?



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Obviously most people agree that it is a religion, but what are its basic principles or doctrinal beliefs? Unfortunately there are so many different viewpoints within Christianity that one cannot really choose one over the other without faith being an issue. So let's look at the basic belief that all Christians share. It can be summarized in one verse in the Bible, John 3:16. Most people can recognize this verse: "For God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

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John 3:16

So, why should that matter to me? Let's look at what this verse is trying to say. It says that God gave us His only Son and if we believe in Him we won't perish but have eternal life. But what about the Son do we have to believe in? Most people would say that you have to believe He was

crucified and through His death God forgave our sins so we could be in heaven and have eternal life. But what is heaven? In the Bible it describes Heaven as the dwelling place of God. Okay, so what? Well, let's look at the

other place you can go, hell, which most Christians describe where God is not. Again, so what? What is so special about God? Look at how the verse starts out, it says that God loves you. Notice it doesn't say that God is powerful, or sovereign, or wrathful but loving. I don't care who you are or where you're from, everyone needs to be

loved and to love someone. It's an inherent thing, just like everyone needs to eat food to live. If you deny this you'll die. With this in mind, I would like to define Christianity as thus: Christianity is the belief that God loves you and because of that love you are compelled to love Him back. Hell is the place where you also realize God's love for you, if you didn't care to realize it on earth, and then have to face the fear that you will be forever separated from that source of love, God Himself. I didn't say that Christianity is a religion where you have to obey God or be good to go to heaven. True you have to obey, but obedience is followed only after the initial acceptance of God's love. That is the only way you can successfully obey Him especially when you initially desire not to. But don't take my word for it. Find out for yourself.