

SOME THINGS I BELIEVE IN RELIGION

I. BELIEVE:

1. That God exists.
2. That Christ is the Son of God.
3. That the Holy Spirit is a part of the Godhead,
4. That the Law of Moses has been fulfilled and we are under Christ's Law.
5. That God has a plan for saving man from sin,
6. That it is possible to be a Christian and a Christian Only.
7. That there is only one Church described in the New Testament.
8. That Worship in the Church consists of:
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Bible Study
 - c. Preaching
 - d. The Lord's Supper
 - e. Singing
 - f. Financial Support
9. That the Mission of the Church is:
 - a. To preach the Gospel to the Whole World.
 - b. To help the Needy.
 - c. To edify the Saints - Encourage its members.
10. That when a Christian sins:
 - a. He needs to confess it.
 - b. He needs to repent of it.
 - c. He needs to ask for forgiveness.
11. That there will be a resurrection of the dead.
12. That there will be a General Judgment Day for all men.
13. That Heaven is prepared for faithful Christians.
14. That Hell is a place of Eternal Punishment for the Wicked.
15. That the Bible is the only Standard of Authority in Christianity.
16. That the Bible is inspired of God - That it is Inerrant.
17. That the Bible authorizes by:
 - a. Direct Command.
 - b. Approved Example.
 - c. Necessary Inference.

SOME THINGS I BELIEVE IN RELIGION

I. THAT GOD EXISTS.

- A. The Bible assumes the existence of God. This is one of the strongest arguments. A person has only two choices. He can say "there is no God" or that "there is a God."

We believe that the God of the Bible is all-powerful, has all knowledge, omnipresent (that is present everywhere) and that He is a God of Love. He has made me in His image and He cares for me as an individual and wants me to be saved from sin and live with Him eternally.

It is most reasonable on my part to love Him and want to obey Him in all that He has for me.

Note: Even the Atheist admits that if there is a God - that there would be only ONE.

This has always been the position of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

- B. Arguments for the existence of God have withstood the test of time. Starting with Aristotle, through the ages men have held to something outside themselves to which they are accountable.

II. THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.

- A. He was Born (became flesh) of a Virgin.

1. His birth is recorded in Matthew 1:20 and Luke 2:1-20.

- B. He died on the cross for my sins.

1. Heb. 9:11-12,14 "But Christ having come as a High Priest of the good things to come, by the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, nor by the blood of goats or calves, but by His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption ... how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

2. Romans 5:8-9 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

3. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

III. THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PART OF THE GODHEAD.

- A. Jesus in speaking to his Apostles said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, he shall teach you all things, and bring

to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
(John 14:26).

- B. Matt. 28:18-20 "...therefore go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- C. II Cor. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."
 - 1. The following Scriptures teach that there is a Godhead: Acts 17:29, Rom. 1:20, Col. 2:9.
- D. The Holy Spirit Guided Men in Writing the Bible.
 - 1. II Peter 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation; for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (borne along) by the Holy Spirit."
 - a. Has reference to the Old Testament specifically, but to the entire Bible generally.
 - 2. II Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Note: That makes the Bible nothing less than the Very Word of God.

IV. THAT THE LAW OF MOSES HAS BEEN FULFILLED AND TAKEN AWAY.

- A. The Law of Moses was given to the Jewish Nation.
- B. It was to last until Christ came.
- C. It has fulfilled its purpose and has been taken away.
 - 1. Galatians 5:4
 - 2. Galatians 4:4-7
 - 3. Galatians 3:16
 - 4. Galatians 3:24-25
 - 5. Colossians 2:14-17
 - 6. Heb. 7:12
 - 7. Heb. 8:1
 - 8. Heb. 8:15
- D. Today all men are under - Amenable to - The Law of Christ.
 - 1. Read: Hebrews 10:1, 9-10 Hebrews 1:1
Hebrews 7:12 Hebrews 8:7-13
Romans 7:1-4

V. THAT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR SAVING MAN.

- A. This Plan has two parts:
 - 1. GOD'S PART: Saved by His Grace.
 - a. Eph. 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

- b. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever would believe upon Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- c. See also: Romans 3:23-24
II Tim. 1:8-9
Titus 3:7

2. MAN'S PART: Obedience to God's Commands.

a. He must have an Unwavering Faith in God.

- (i) Heb. 11:6 "For without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
- (ii) See also: John 18:8 John 11:25-26
Rom. 1:16-17 Romans 5:1-2

b. He must Repent of his sins.

- (i) Luke 5:32, Acts 3:19, Acts 17:30
II Cor. 7:10, Romans 2:4
- (ii) Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

c. He must Confess His Faith in Christ as God's Son.

- (i) Matt. 10:32-33 "Whosoever shall confess me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. but whosoever shall deny me before men, I will deny him ..." (See also Luke 12:8-9).
- (ii) Rom. 10:9-10 "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you shall be saved...."

d. He must be baptized.

- (i) Baptism is: An immersion in water for remission of sins.

(a) A part of the Great Commission.

- (1) Mk. 16:15 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

NOTE: Every case of conversion recorded in the New Testament required baptism:

Acts 2:1-47

- (2) Matt. 28:18-20 "... baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit ..."

- Acts 8:12
Acts 8:26-40
Acts 9:10-19
Acts 10:1-48
Acts 16:11-15
Acts 16:25-34
Acts 18:8
- (b) For Forgiveness of Sins.
- (1) Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized for remission of sins"
(2) Acts 22:16 "Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins..."
(3) I Peter 3:21 "Baptism doth also save us ..."
- (c) Baptism Puts Us Into the Death of Christ.
- (1) Rom. 6:3-4 "Baptized into Christ and into his death."
Verse 18 says: "Being then made free from sin ..."
- (d) Baptized Into the Body - The Church.
- (1) I Cor. 12:13 "By one spirit we are baptized into the one body."
- (e) In Baptism We Put On Christ.
- (1) Gal. 3:27 "As many as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ."

Pentecostans Baptized
Samaritans Baptized
Eunuch Baptized
Saul Baptized
Cornelius Baptized
Lydia Baptized
Jailor Baptized
Corinthians Baptized

3. In obeying Christ to be saved, Man must: (Heb. 5:9).
- (a) Hear the Word of God.
(b) Repent of every sin.
(c) Confess his faith in Jesus as the Son of God.
(d) Be baptized into Christ.

VI. THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND A CHRISTIAN ONLY.

- A. Acts 11:26 "...the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."
B. Acts 26:28 "...Paul almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian."
C. I Peter 4:16 "...If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed."

NOTE: For many hundreds of years, the disciples of Christ were called Christians. Nothing was added to that name which would cause division.

It is possible for every follower of Christ today to just consider himself a Christian only without adding a modifier to it or to hyphenate it into such designations as:

Greek Orthodox Christians
Roman Catholic Christians
Protestant Christians

It is possible for every Christian to just be a member of the body of Christ - his church - and be only a Christian. It is also God's will.

VII. THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE CHURCH DESCRIBED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. This church does not belong to man or a group of men;
- B. The Bible teaches that Christ is:
1. The Builder of the Church Matt. 16:18
 2. The Foundation of the Church Eph. 2:2-22
 3. The Head of the Church Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18
 4. The Purchaser of the Church Acts 20:28, I Pet. 1:18
 5. The Saviour of the Church

NOTE: Thus, the Church belongs to Christ.

C. The Church is described as:

1. The Bride of Christ Rom. 7:4, Eph. 5:23-25, 30
2. The Body of Christ Eph. 5:30, Eph. 1:22-23
Col. 1:18, Eph. 2:14-16
3. The Family of God I Tim. 3:14-15, Eph. 2:19
Heb. 3:6, I Pet. 2:5
I Pet. 4:17
4. The Kingdom of Heaven Matt. 20:1
5. The Temple of the Lord Eph. 2:19-22

VIII. THAT WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH CONSISTS OF:

- A. Prayer
B. Bible Study **SINGING**
C. Preaching
D. Giving of our Means

1. I Cor. 16:1-2 "... let every one of you lay by on first day of the week..."

E. The Lord's Supper

1. Matt. 26:26-30 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is My body.' And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'All of you drink from it. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.'"

(a) See also: Luke 22:7-20.

2. The Lord's Supper was observed in the Corinthian

Church.

(a) Read: I Cor. 11:23-29.

3. The Lord's Supper was observed weekly on Sunday.

- (a) Acts 20:7 "And on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached to them, ready to depart on the morrow."

NOTE: The "first day of the week" for the Jews is what we know as Sunday.

F. Singing was a part of New Testament worship.

1. Eph. 5:19 "Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."
2. Col. 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

(a) See also: I Cor. 14:15, Heb. 2:12, James 5:13.

NOTE: Singing - vocal music, - is authorized

There is No - Direct Command For
Approved Example Instrumental
Necessary Inference Music

IX. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS:

A. To Preach the Gospel to the Whole World.

1. Mark 16:15-16 "preach the gospel to every creature.."
2. Matt. 28:18-20 "...go teach all nations..."
3. Rom. 1:16-17 "...power of God unto salvation to everyone who will believe..."
4. See also: I Cor. 1:21
Rom. 10:13-17

B. To Take Care of the Needy.

1. James 1:27 "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
2. Gal. 6:10 "Do good unto all men, especially those of the household of faith."
3. I Tim. 5:3-8 "Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. And

these things command, that they may be blameless. But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

C. Edify and Build Up the Church.

1. Heb. 13:1-3 "Let brotherly love continue ... "
2. I Peter 1:22-23
3. Rom. 12:10-13 "... be joined together in a brotherhood of mutual love, trying to outdo one another in showing respect..."

X. WHEN A CHILD OF GOD - A CHRISTIAN SINS -

- A. He needs to Confess It.
- B. He needs to Repent of It. (Repentance is to change one's mind or attitude towards someone or some thing.)
- C. He needs to Ask for Forgiveness.
 1. I John 1:7-10 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

XI. THAT THERE WILL BE A GENERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

- A. Acts 24:15 "Having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked."
- B. I Cor. 6:14 "...He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His spirit which indwells you."
- C. Other passages which teach a General Resurrection:
 1. John 6:39, 40, 44, 54.
 2. John 5:28-29.
 3. John 11:25-26.
 4. I Cor. 15:12-22, 41-44.
 5. Phil. 3:11.

XII. THAT THERE WILL BE A GENERAL JUDGMENT DAY.

- A. Matthew 25:32-34, 41 John 12:48, Rom. 14:10-12.
- B. II Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

- C. Heb. 9:27 "Appointed unto man to die, and after that comes the judgment."
- D. Other Passages which teach a General Judgment Day:
1. II Pet. 2:9.
 2. Rev. 20:10-12, 14-15.
 3. II Pet. 3:7.
- E. The Judgment will take place after the Second Coming of Christ.
1. I Thess. 4:16-18, Rev. 22:12-13, Heb. 9:28, Acts 17:30-31, Acts 1:11, I John 3:2, Phil. 3:20.
 2. Rev. 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."

XIII. HEAVEN IS A PREPARED PLACE FOR FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS.

- A. Luke 10:20, "Rejoice for your names are written in heaven
...."
- B. Phil. 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."
- See Rev. 21:1-2, 10, 11, 27.

XIV. HELL IS A PLACE OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.

- A. Luke 12:5, Matt. 22:13, Mark 9:43-44.
- B. Matt. 13:42 "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."
- C. Rev. 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."
- D. Rev. 20:10 "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and for ever."
- E. Those who refuse to Obey the Lord will be Eternally Lost.
1. II Thess. 1:7-9 "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."
 2. See also: Matt. 23:33, Matt. 13:41-42, Rev. 21:8, II Peter 2:4.