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Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry provides on-site pastoral care and Bible discussion groups for the students, faculty, staff, and administration in the collegiate communities in and around Columbia, Missouri.



Acknowledgments:

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Next Week:

What good is the Bible? Where did it come from?
How is it organized? How do we use it?

Bring a friend, make a friend!

Heidelberg Colloquy 01: What Is Christianity?

Christianity, like any philosophy or religion, has a particular understanding of the nature of the world and of people. We'll explore that understanding today.

Christianity holds the Bible as the authoritative commentary on the nature of the world, God, and humans. So we will see how the Bible describes it all.

1. The world was created by an all-powerful and loving God, who himself is uncreated. See Genesis chapters 1-2

- created by God's command
- created good
- people also created good

2. Something went wrong with the world. Christians will call it "sin." Genesis chapter 3 describes this. Sin leads to:

- distrust
- disobedience
- disturbance
- death
- destruction

3. As a result, all creation must depend on God's forgiveness. All sin is fatal. Something needs to be done about it.

Genesis chapter 2 verse 17 (Genesis 2:17)
Ezekiel chapter 18 verse 20 (Ezekiel 18:20)
Romans chapter 6 verse 23 (Romans 6:23)

4. To understand it in more detail, we find that sin leads to death.

1 Timothy 2:6
Galatians 3:13

5. A substitute can die for humans, but the substitute must be perfect for God to accept the substitution.

Mark 10:45
Romans 5:6

6. Christians recognize Jesus as described in the Bible to be both true man and true God at once. That means that at the same time he is really a human and really God.

- He lives a sinless life as a man

2 Corinthians 5:21
Hebrews 4:15

- He can die for the sins of the world

1 John 3:5
John 1:29

- He takes the sin of the world upon himself

2 Corinthians 5:21

- He rises from the dead

1 Corinthians 15

- He gives life to all who believe in him

Acts 16:31

Christians see the work of Jesus, who is called “the Christ,” as a reversal of what happened in Genesis 3.

Christians believe the account of God, man, sin, and salvation is accurately preserved for us in the Bible, a collection of writings assembled over time and recognized by the late 2nd century A.D. For this reason, we will continue using the Bible as our primary resource in these studies.

We study, pray, and encourage one another because the Bible gives us hope and understanding about God’s work to rescue the sinful world.

For Further Consideration:

How do you understand the world to have come into being?

What good and bad can you identify in the world, including in human society?

What do you see as the solution for bad in the world?