

# **Christianity 101: Basics of the Christian Faith**

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...

Ephesians 2:19–20

developed by

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# Christianity 101: Basics of the Christian Faith

Welcome to this exciting journey! As we proceed, we will discover the basics of the Christian faith. Our text will be the Bible. This study guide will direct your search of various Bible passages. Through the process of reading, studying, and discussing, we will learn essential truths about God, humans, sin, salvation, and relationships. You will discover the chief teachings of the Bible and what we, as Lutherans, “believe, teach, and confess.”

We recommend use of a journal or notepad as you walk through the course. Note your understanding of the Bible passages you study. Write down questions you would like to ask. Leave room for exploring answers.

We would also remind you that we learn best through active involvement. Looking up the references, asking questions, and figuring out how you would answer questions will help you interact with the Word of God. That’s heart and center of living the Christian life.

## “Believe, teach, and confess”

You will hear that phrase often in history. It was used to summarize our Christian beliefs as publicly reaffirmed in the 16th century events known as the Reformation. We **believe** that the Bible is the Word of God; and that God sent His Son to live, die, and rise again for our salvation. We publicly **teach** that as well. And as gathered Christians we **confess** that faith in worship services and in our daily lives. This course will help you understand what we “believe, teach, and confess.”

## Questions? ... Questions? ... Questions?

You will have opportunity to ask questions at every session. The primary means of learning will be achieved through the leader asking questions and directing you to the appropriate Bible passages. Remember, if you have a question, most likely someone else does too.

**So ask ... ask ... ask!**

## Bibles and Translations

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic; the New Testament in Greek. While the originals no longer exist many copies of copies of the manuscripts do exist (several thousand). Because the Bible is pertinent to everyone, it has been translated into many languages. While no translation perfectly reproduces the original, many faithful translations have accurately maintained the original sense.

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In the English language, several very good translations have been produced. The better translations are:

*New King James Version (NKJV)*  
*English Standard Version (ESV)*  
*New American Standard (NAS)*  
*Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)*  
*New International Version (NIV)*

You can also use these Bibles as secondary sources:

*God's WORD (formerly NET, New Evangelical Translation)*  
*New Living Translation (NLT2)*  
*Today's English Version (TEV 1994 ed.)*  
*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*  
*New English Translation (NET)*

One point to keep in mind. The Hebrew and Greek manuscripts still are the ultimate authority in cases of doctrinal dispute. The translations can aid us.

## Lesson 1: The Bible

The word “Bible” means “book.” Christians confess that the Bible is the Word of God, the “Book of Books.” The Bible is God’s revelation of himself to humans. It remains relevant to every generation and every culture.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God...

*2 Timothy 3:14–16a*

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,

but the word of the Lord remains forever.

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

*1 Peter 1:22–25*

### Two Divisions

The Bible has two parts: *Old Testament* and *New Testament*.

Jesus Christ is the center of each and becomes the dividing point between them. The Old Testament points ahead to Jesus Christ. The New Testament reveals his coming.

John 5:39

Galatians 3:7–9

Jesus Christ is not only the dividing point in the Bible, but he is the dividing figure in history.

B.C. “Before Christ” (sometimes, B.C.E. = “Before Common Era”)

A.D. “*Anno Domini*” (“in the year of the Lord”) (sometimes C.E. = “Common Era”)

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OT	BC	O-L-D		T-E-S-T-A-M-E-N-T	
		(3)	+	(9)	39 Books (writings)
NT	AD	N-E-W		T-E-S-T-A-M-E-N-T	
		(3)	x	(9)	27 Books (writings)

The different writings in the Old and New Testaments are often classified as follows:

### Old Testament:

- 5 books – Law
- 12 books – History
- 5 books – Wisdom Literature
- 5 books – Major (longer) Prophets
- 12 books – Minor (shorter) Prophets

### New Testament:

- 4 books – Gospels
- 1 book – History
- 13 books – Paul’s Letters
- 8 books – General Letters
- 1 book – Prophecy

## Verbal Inspiration

The Holy Spirit “breathed into” (inspired) the writers the thoughts and words they were to write.

- 2 Timothy 3:14–17
- 2 Peter 1:19–21

## The Purpose of the Bible

(See 2 Timothy 3:14–17. Passages in parentheses suggest applications)

1. make wise to salvation (*John 14:6*)
2. training in righteousness (*Romans 15:4*)
3. correct doctrine (*Ephesians 4:11–16*)
4. rebuking (*2 Thessalonians 3:6–15*)
5. comforting (*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*)
6. equipping (*Ephesians 4:11–16*)

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### **How then do we respond to the Bible?**

1 Thessalonians 2:13

### **How to Use the Bible**

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Read it (*Acts 17:10-12*)

Learn it (*Romans 15:4*)

Hear it [preached/read] (*1 Timothy 4:13*)

Believe it (*1 Thessalonians 2:13*)

Study it (*Acts 17:10-12*)

Live according to it (*1 Timothy 4:16*)

## Lesson 2: Two Doctrines — Law & Gospel

### **Law:**

Tells us what we are to do

Convicts us of our sin

Proclaimed to impenitent sinners

For those who have been forgiven in the Gospel, it serves as a Guide for penitent sinners

### **Gospel:**

Tells us what God has done for us

Saves us from our sins

Proclaimed to troubled sinners

Creates living faith in Jesus Christ

“Penitent” means “sorry for your wrongdoing.” “Impenitent” is the opposite.

**God’s Law Shows Our Sin**

**God’s Gospel Shows Our Savior**

Compare these two events and the responses:

Mark 10:17–22

### **LAW**

tells us . . .

and always . . .

Acts 16:25–31

### **Gospel**

tells us . . .

and never . . .

but always . . .

The key to a proper understanding of the Bible is the proper distinction between these two items. To make the distinction, ask this question. If it concerns salvation, who is the subject of the sentence? Who does the action?

Martin Luther (1483–1546) wrote:

“... anyone who can properly distinguish Law and Gospel and apply them should be called a Doctor of Theology.”



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### **Can you ever be sure of going to heaven?**

Our condition:  
Ephesians 2:1-10

Our sinful destiny:  
John 3:18-20

God's desire:  
1 Timothy 2:3-4

God's work:  
Ephesians 2:4-7

Does this give you comfort?  
1 John 5:11-13

Are you going to heaven?

## Lesson 3: Law and Gospel Comparison

Review the Bible passages to see the implications of life under God's Law and life under God's Gospel.

### **What is the hope for humans?**

Law: Romans 3:20

Gospel: John 3:16

### **Demand for perfection?**

Law: Matthew 5:48

Gospel: Romans 3:28

### **Whose righteousness?**

Law: Philippians 3:9

Gospel: Philippians 3:9

### **How are we saved?**

Law: Galatians 3:11

Gospel: Ephesians 2:8-9

### **Saved by means of . . .**

Law: Galatians 3:10

Gospel: Ephesians 2:8-9

### **What is our condition/state?**

Law: John 3:18

Gospel: 1 John 5:11-13

### **What is accomplished?**

Law: Romans 7:7

Gospel: Ephesians 2:8-9

### **What are the promises?**

Law: Galatians 3:10, 12

Gospel: Galatians 3:11, 13, 14

### **Origin?**

Law: Exodus 20:1 and following

Gospel: John 1:16-17

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### **Why is it necessary?**

Law: Galatians 3:19, 24

Gospel: Acts 4:12

### **What is the final aim?**

Law: Mark 10:17-23

Gospel: 1 John 5:11-12

### **What do we find in these places in the Bible?**

Law: Exodus 20

Law: Matthew 5-7

Gospel: Psalm 32:1-5

Gospel: Romans 3:28

### **Manner revealed to humans**

Law: Romans 2:14-15

Law: Exodus 20

Gospel: John 1:16-17

### **Persons to whom spoken**

Law: Mark 10:17-23

Gospel: Acts 16:25-31

**Consider again the function of the Law and the function of the Gospel.**

## Lesson 4: 1<sup>st</sup> Table of Commandments

Note: Different church bodies number these commands differently. Lutherans and Roman Catholics divide two similar commands at the end into a ninth and tenth. Anglicans, Reformed, and Orthodox church bodies divide the beginning into a first and second command, then keep the commands at the end as one tenth command. These commands are found in Exodus chapter 20. The passage in the original does not have numbers. Translations differ slightly.

We present the commands as numbered by Lutherans and Roman Catholics, with an explanation written by Martin Luther in 1529 in smaller print below the corresponding command.

**First Commandment:** You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

(Here Anglicans, Reformed, and Orthodox bodies separate a second command, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image” which the Lutherans and Roman Catholic churches consider part of “having no other gods.”)

**Second Commandment:** You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not curse swear, use Satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

**Third Commandment:** Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

**Fourth Commandment:** Honor your father and your mother.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

**Fifth Commandment:** You shall not murder.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need.

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**Sixth Commandment:** You shall not commit adultery.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

**Seventh Commandment:** You shall not steal.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

**Eighth Commandment:** You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

**Ninth Commandment:** You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

(Anglican, Reformed, and Orthodox church bodies combine the ninth and tenth commandments, both having to do with coveting.)

**Tenth Commandment:** You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

The commandments urge us to study other parts of Scripture. We see they tell us what not to do, what to do, and how we worship God in light of the commandments.

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**1<sup>st</sup> Commandment: *You shall have no other gods.***

**Negative:**

Deuteronomy 6:4

Isaiah 42:8

Psalms 14:1

Psalms 115:3-8

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

1 John 5:21

Ephesians 5:5

**Positive:**

Psalms 111:10

Proverbs 3:5-6

John 5:23

Psalms 118:8-9

This influences our worship:

Psalms 33:8-9

Psalms 73:25-26

Matthew 4:1-11

Matthew 22:34-40

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**

### **Name of God:**

Exodus 3:13–17

Isaiah 42:5-9

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Matthew 1:20-23

John 8:48–59

### **Negative:**

*Cursing* (using God's name in a profane manner)

Leviticus 24:14-16

James 3:7–10

*Swearing* (taking an oath using God's name, carelessly, thoughtlessly)

Leviticus 19:11-12

Numbers 30:1-15

Matthew 5:33-37

Matthew 14:6–9

*Lying/Deceiving*

Jeremiah 23:30-32

Matthew 15:7-9

*Satanic Arts/Witchcraft*

Deuteronomy 18:9–13

1 John 3:7-8

Ephesians 6:10–18

### **Positive:**

Psalm 50:15

Psalm 118:1-14

Psalm 103:1

John 15:7

John 16:23-24

Ephesians 5:18-21

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

### **Basis for the commandment:**

Exodus 20:8-11

Exodus 35:1-3

“Sabbath” means. . .

Matthew 11:28-30

Romans 14:5-6

Galatians 4:10–11

Colossians 2:16-17

### **Negative:**

John 8:47

Luke 7:29-35

Luke 10:16

### **Positive:**

Acts 2:42

Hebrews 10:23-25

Joshua 1:7-9

Psalms 26:8

Isaiah 66:1-2

Galatians 6:6-9

Hebrews 4:14-16

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Colossians 3:16-17



## Lesson 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> Table of Commandments

**4<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.**  
(“The first commandment with a promise”)

**Negative:**

Deuteronomy 21:18–21

Proverbs 19:26

**Positive:**

Proverbs 23:22

1 Timothy 5:4

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Ephesians 6:1–4

**Extended:**

Romans 13:1–7

Titus 3:1–2

Acts 5:29

Leviticus 19:32

**Other Issues:** Are there others in the role of parents? Are there times when it is appropriate to disobey parents?

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### **5<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You shall not murder.**

Distinguish between “murder” and “kill.”

Genesis 9:5-7

Exodus 21:22-23

#### **Negative:**

##### *Abortion*

Psalm 139:13-16

Luke 1:15, 39-44

Jeremiah 1:5

##### *Euthanasia*

Proverbs 6:16-17

Proverbs 31:8-9

##### *Suicide*

Deuteronomy 32:39

Jeremiah 31:2-4

Luke 12:22-23

Romans 12:18-19

##### *Anger*

Matthew 5:21-26

#### **Positive:**

Romans 12:20-21

Matthew 5:5, 7, 9

Matthew 6:14-15

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

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### **6<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.**

#### **Institution of Marriage:**

Genesis 1:26–28

Genesis 2:18–25

Mark 10:2-12

#### **Negative:**

*Divorce*

Matthew 19:3–9

1 Corinthians 7:10–16

*Sexual Immorality*

1 Corinthians 6:8-10, 15-20

1 Corinthians 5:1–13

*Rape/incest/pornography/homosexuality*

Romans 1:24-32

*Impure thoughts*

Matthew 5:27-29

Matthew 15:17-20

#### **Positive:**

Genesis 39:1–10

1 Corinthians 6:18–20

Titus 2:11–14

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8

Hebrews 13:4

Ephesians 4:31-32

Ephesians 5:22–33

#### **Developing a Relationship**

Dating

Secular Model: physical relationship

Biblical Model: spiritual relationship

Engagement

Both Models: Mind, Will, Emotions Become Attached

Marriage

Secular Model: spiritual relationship

Biblical Model: physical relation – two become one

## Lesson 6: 2<sup>nd</sup> Table of Commandments (part 2)

**7<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You shall not steal.**

**Negative:**

Leviticus 19:35

Psalm 37:21

Amos 8:4-6

*Examples:*

Joshua 7:20-23 (Achan)

2 Kings 5:20-24 (Gehazi)

John 12:4-6 (Judas)

Acts 5:1-11 (Ananias & Sapphira)

**Positive:**

Leviticus 19:36

Matthew 7:11-12

Philippians 2:4

Matthew 5:38-42

Hebrews 13:16

Luke 19:1-10

1 John 3:16-17

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**8<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

### **Negative:**

*Lie*

Proverbs 19:5

Matthew 26:59-61

*Betray*

Proverbs 11:13

*Slander*

James 4:11

Luke 6:37

2 Samuel 15:1-6

### **Positive:**

Matthew 18:15-20

*Defend*

Proverbs 31:8-9

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*Speak well*

Ephesians 4:25, 29

1 Peter 4:8

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**9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

### **Negative:**

Genesis 3:4-5

2 Samuel 11:2-4

James 1:13-15

Malachi 2:1-2

Luke 12:15

1 Timothy 6:6-10

### **Positive:**

Matthew 6:25-34

Philippians 4:8, 11

1 Timothy 6:6

Hebrews 13:5

## **Lesson 7: Attributes of God**

God is often described in terms of his attributes. These are the characteristics that help us understand something of his nature. Identify an attribute of God shown by the following Old Testament and New Testament passages.

1. John 4:24
2. Psalm 90:1–2; 1 Timothy 1:17
3. Malachi 3:6; James 1:17
4. Genesis 17:1; Matthew 19:26
5. Psalm 139:1–14; John 21:17
6. Jeremiah 23:24; Acts 17:27
7. Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16
8. Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 Peter 1:17
9. Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Timothy 2:13
10. Psalm 118:1; Mark 10:18
11. Jeremiah 3:12; Titus 3:5
12. Exodus 34:6–7; Ephesians 4:32

## Lesson 8: Apostles' Creed

Since the early years of Christianity, the Apostles' Creed has been used to identify some of the core beliefs of Christianity. It is a summary of important biblical teachings. Try to match the statements in the Apostles' Creed with the Bible passages which follow it.

(\_\_\_\_) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, (\_\_\_\_) Maker of heaven and earth,  
(\_\_\_\_) and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, (\_\_\_\_) our Lord,  
(\_\_\_\_) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (\_\_\_\_) born of the virgin Mary, (\_\_\_\_)  
(\_\_\_\_) suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
(\_\_\_\_) was crucified, (\_\_\_\_) died, (\_\_\_\_) and was buried. (\_\_\_\_) He descended into  
hell.  
(\_\_\_\_) On the third day He rose again from the dead. (\_\_\_\_) He ascended into  
heaven,  
(\_\_\_\_) and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.  
(\_\_\_\_) From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
  
(\_\_\_\_) I believe in the Holy Spirit, (\_\_\_\_) the Holy Christian Church, (\_\_\_\_) the  
communion of saints, (\_\_\_\_) the forgiveness of sins, (\_\_\_\_) the resurrection of the  
body,  
(\_\_\_\_) and the life everlasting. Amen.



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### Bible Passages

- 1 *Luke 24:51* While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.
- 2 *Luke 2:7* And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
- 3 *Matthew 16:18* And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- 4 *Genesis 1:1* In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- 5 *Ephesians 1:7* In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace
- 6 *John 6:47* Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.
- 7 *Ephesians 1:20–23* that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
- 8 *Acts 10:40* but God raised him on the third day
- 9 *Matthew 1:20* But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- 10 *Malachi 2:10* Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?
- 11 *John 5:28–29* Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
- 12 *John 19:1* Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.
- 13 *John 19:16* So he [Pilate] delivered him over to them to be crucified.
- 14 *John 19:30* When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, It is finished, and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- 15 *Mark 15:46* And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.
- 16 *John 1:18* No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
- 17 *John 20:28* Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
- 18 *Acts 17:31* because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.
- 19 *1 Corinthians 2:10* these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
- 20 *1 Peter 3:19* in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison
- 21 *Ephesians 2:19* So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

## Lesson 9: 1st Article of the Creed (part 1)

In 1529 Dr. Martin Luther wrote some explanations of the different parts of the Apostles' Creed. We compare his explanation with some passages from the Bible.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and my senses, and still preserves them;

also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life;

that He defends me against all danger, guards and protects me from all evil;

and all this purely out of fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

**Creed** ([from Latin *credo* = "I believe"])

Romans 10:17

Hebrews 11:1-3

James 2:19

1 Corinthians 12:3

1 Timothy 3:16

### **Triune God**

Psalm 2:7

John 15:26

Matthew 28:18-20

### **God as Father**

John 20:17

Ephesians 3:14-15

Galatians 3:26

Malachi 2:10

### **God as Creator**

Colossians 1:16

Psalm 33:6-9

Hebrews 11:30

Genesis 1-2

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The Bible describes angels as beings who are involved in the conflict of good and evil.

### **Good**

Hebrews 1:14  
Matthew 18:10  
Matthew 25:31  
Luke 2:13  
Psalm 103:20  
Psalm 91:11–12

### **Evil**

2 Peter 2:4  
Ephesians 6:12  
John 8:43-44  
1 Peter 5:8–9  
James 4:6-7  
2 Corinthians 11:13–15

## Lesson 10: 1<sup>st</sup> Article of the Creed (part 2)

### **The Crown of God's Creation – Humans**

Genesis 1:26–28

### **Image of God**

Colossians 3:9-10

Ephesians 4:20-24

### **The Problem of Sin**

Genesis 3:8–10

Genesis 5:3

Romans 5:12-14

1 Corinthians 2:14

### **The Solution**

Romans 5:19

2 Corinthians 5:21

### **God's Care for us [Providence]**

Psalms 139:14

Psalms 36:6

Psalms 145:15–16

Matthew 6:25–34

Matthew 10:29–30

Romans 8:28

### **God's Care of all Creation**

Psalms 147:4

Hebrews 1:3

### **God's Motive**

Psalms 103:13

Genesis 32:9-10

### **Our Response**

Psalms 139:14

Psalms 118:1

Psalms 116:12–14

### **Our Stewardship Life**

Acts 14:15-17

2 Corinthians 9:5–8

## **Lesson 11: 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Creed (part 1)**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

### **Names**

Matthew 1:21

Acts 4:12

See also Exodus 3:13–15, John 8:58–59

### **Titles**

Matthew 1:23

Matthew 16:16

Matthew 25:31

Luke 2:11

John 1:1

John 1:14

John 20:28

**Two Natures in Christ**

**True God**

Matthew 9:6  
Matthew 17:5  
Matthew 28:18, 20  
John 1:1–2  
John 5:20-27  
John 20:28  
John 21:17  
Romans 9:5  
Hebrews 13:8  
Hebrews 1:3, 6

**True Man**

Matthew 4:2  
Matthew 26:37, 38  
Mark 4:38  
Luke 24:39  
John 11:35  
John 19:28–33  
1 Timothy 2:5  
See also Matthew 26–27

**True God and Man**

Acts 3:15  
Colossians 2:9  
1 Timothy 3:16  
1 John 1:7

***Purpose***

Psalms 49:7–8  
Mark 10:45  
Romans 5:19  
Galatians 4:4–5  
2 Timothy 2:10  
Hebrews 2:14

## Lesson 12: 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Creed (part 2)

### **Prophet**

Deuteronomy 18:15  
Matthew 17:5  
Luke 10:16  
John 1:16-18

### **Priest**

Hebrews 7:26–28  
Hebrews 4:14–16  
1 John 2:1–2

### **King**

2 Samuel 7:12–14  
Psalm 110:1–2  
Matthew 28:18  
John 18:36–37  
2 Timothy 4:18  
See also the *Royal Psalms*: Psalm 93–99

Other accounts of the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection:

Acts 10:38–42  
1 Corinthians 15:3–8

### **Redemption**

2 Corinthians 5:21  
Galatians 3:13-14  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
1 Corinthians 15:55–57  
2 Timothy 2:8-10  
1 John 3:8  
Luke 19:10  
1 Peter 1:18–19

We often speak in terms of the “humiliation” and “exaltation” of Christ. He humbled himself and was raised up again.

## **Christianity 101**

### **HUMILIATION (Philippians 2:5–8]**

Conceived (Luke 1:35)

Born (Luke 2:7)

Suffered (John 19:1–3; Isaiah 53)

Crucified (John 19:16-23)

Died (John 19:30; Galatians 3:13)

Buried (John 19:38–42)

### **EXALTATION (Philippians 2:9–11)**

Descended into hell (1 Peter 3:18–19)

Rose from the dead (Luke 24:1–3; Romans 1:4)

Ascended (Luke 24:50–51; Ephesians 4:10)

Sits at right hand of Father (Ephesians 1:20–23)

Judge (Acts 10:42)



## Lesson 13: 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Creed (part 1)

And in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him;

but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

### **The Holy Spirit's Work to *convert***

1 Corinthians 2:13-14

Ephesians 2:1-5

Romans 8:9-11

2 Timothy 1:8-9

1 Peter 2:9

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

### **The Holy Spirit's work to *sanctify***

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Ephesians 2:8-10

### **The Holy Spirit's work to *keep***

1 Peter 1:3-5

Philippians 1:6

Ezekiel 33:11

2 Peter 3:9

Ephesians 2:19-22

## Lesson 14: 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Creed (part 2)

### **The Fruit of the Spirit**

Galatians 5:22–26

### **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

1 Corinthians 12–14

Romans 12:4–8

Ephesians 4:11–16

1 Peter 4:10–11

### **The Forgiveness of sins**

Luke 24:46–48

1 John 1:8–9

1 John 2:1–2

### **The Resurrection of the Dead**

Job 19:25–27

John 5:28–29

1 Corinthians 15:51–58

### **Judgment**

Matthew 25:31–46

1 Thessalonians 4:13–16

### **Assurance of Salvation**

1 John 5:11–13

### **Church**

Matthew 16:13–20

Matthew 18:15–20

## Lesson 15: Prayer (part 1)

### **The Command and Invitation to Pray**

Matthew 7:7-8

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### **The Basis for Prayer**

John 14:13-14

John 15:7

Hebrews 4:14-16

1 John 5:14-15

### **Content of Prayer**

Philippians 4:6

### **How to Pray**

John 16:23

Matthew 21:22

James 1:6-7

Luke 11:13

Luke 22:42

1 John 5:14

### **Help in Prayer**

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:34

### **Answers to Prayer**

Isaiah 65:24

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Luke 18:1-8

## Lesson 16: Prayer (part 2)

### For whom should we pray?

1 Timothy 2:1–2

Matthew 5:44

### Examples:

Genesis 18:23–32

Matthew 15:22–28

Luke 23:34

Acts 7:60

### Where?

1 Timothy 2:8

Matthew 6:6

Luke 5:16

Acts 12:5

### When?

Psalm 65:8

Psalm 119:164

Daniel 6:10

Psalm 50:15

### Discuss the Life of Prayer

## Lesson 17: Baptism

Baptism is normally seen as the entrance into the Christian life.

### **Institution of Baptism**

Matthew 28:18–20

Ephesians 5:25–28

### **Other uses of “*baptizo*”**

Mark 1:7–8

Mark 7:3–4

### **Who is it for?**

Matthew 28:19

Acts 2:37–41

Acts 8:26–39

Acts 16:29–34

### **Power of Baptism**

(Notice that as baptism is seen as the entry into the Christian life, the rest of life follows. What does it look like?)

Colossians 2:11–14

1 Peter 1:23

Acts 20:21

Colossians 2:6–7

### **Blessings of Baptism**

Acts 2:38–39

Acts 22:16

Romans 6:1–11

Hebrews 2:14–15

1 Peter 3:20–22

Titus 3:4–7

John 3:3–6

Mark 16:16

## **Lesson 18: The Lord's Supper (part 1)**

### **Institution of the Lord's Supper**

Matthew 26:26–28

Mark 14:22–25

Luke 22:14–22

1 Corinthians 11:23–29

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

Acts 2:41–47

## Lesson 19: Lord's Supper (part 2)

In Western Christianity there are basically three ways the Lord's Supper is viewed. We'll classify these as "Roman Catholic," "Lutheran," and "Protestant."

### **Theological Name of the Doctrine:**

*Roman Catholic* "Transubstantiation"

*Lutheran* – no name

*Protestant* "Representation"

### **Elements:**

*All groups:* Bread, Body, Wine, Blood

### **The Real Presence of God:**

*Roman Catholic:* Real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, but not of bread and wine.

*Lutheran:* Real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ ("in, with, and under") the substance of bread and wine.

*Protestant:* Real presence of Christ (but not his Body and Blood). The presence is the same as Christ's presence everywhere.

### **The Value of the Lord's Supper:**

*Roman Catholic:* For the forgiveness of sins. The act of the Supper is most important. Priest (re-)sacrifices Christ every time he celebrates the Lord's Supper.

*Lutheran:* For the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen the faith of those who receive the benefits. Body and Blood of Christ also received by unbelievers, but to their condemnation.

*Protestant:* An ordinance that the Christian must follow.

Since these are only symbols, any convenient food may be substituted for the elements. The effect of the Lord's Supper is only for believers.

### **View of Fellowship:**

*Roman Catholic:* Until Vatican II (1963–1966) only Roman Catholics could commune at the altar. Today, many RCC allow any baptized Christian to participate.

*Lutheran:* Fellowship at the Lord's Table means a common confession of the Christian faith. Vertical (with God) and horizontal (with others) dimensions are important. What the Church confesses and teaches and what I believe are both important.

*Protestant:* Fellowship is dependent on the person's faith, regardless of church's confession. "Fellowship of being together" (horizontal) is most important.

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### **Resulting Practices:**

*Roman Catholic:* See above “View of Fellowship”

*Lutheran:* Various practices, normally classified as “closed communion,” “open communion,” and “responsible communion.”

*Protestant:* Fellowship is generally open: “What I believe is important. What others believe is their business.” Some local congregations restrict communion to members of their congregation.



## **Lesson 20: Confession and Forgiveness**

### **The Biblical Issue of Forgiveness**

Ephesians 4:32

1 Peter 2:4–10

Revelation 1:5–6

### **Forgiveness and the Church**

Matthew 18:15–20

John 20:22–23

1 Timothy 1:18–20

Psalm 32:1–5

2 Samuel 12:1–13

Psalm 51:1–13