

CREED

(Rediscovering the Foundation of Our Faith)

.....I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was

- Born of the virgin Mary
- Suffered under Pontius Pilate
- Was crucified, died and was buried
- He arose on the third day
- He ascended into heaven
- He sits at the Father's right hand
- He will come again to judge the living and dead

I. What sets Christianity apart from all other religions is the basic belief about Jesus Christ! It boils down to **WHO HE REALLY WAS !**

A. He was not a **good teacher, a prophet or a religious reformer !**

1. HE IS GOD!

1 John 1: 1-4

1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. **2** This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

2. The earliest and most extensive information we have concerning Jesus comes from 27 documents of the New Testament. They were all written between 50-90 A.D.

Luke 1:1-3

1 Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. **2** They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. **3** Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus,

3. The earliest of these documents were not the Gospels but rather Paul's letters to the believers in the Roman Empire!
4. The first is most likely the letter to the Galatians or maybe the Thessalonians.
5. This were written about 25 years after the resurrection!!
6. Paul describes his conversion which took place a couple years after Jesus' death.
7. Paul began to follow Jesus around 35 A.D. which makes him one of the earliest sources to describe the Christian Faith!!

B. The life of Jesus on earth can be summed up with this simple explanation!

Matthew 9:35-38

35 Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. **38** So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

C. He was a **revolutionary in every sense of the word!**

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. **2** And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. **3** The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed

us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. **4** This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

1. He was leading a **revolution from the inside out!**

Matthew 23:27

27 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity.

2. Jesus was not concerned with overthrowing the Romans!
3. He understood that God’s Kingdom existed wherever people put their trust in God and sought to live His “narrow way”!
4. His kingdom’s platform was: Love your neighbor, love your enemy, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit the sick and needy, forgive others, walk in humility and many other **hard sayings!**

II. Jesus was born of a virgin, died, arose and ascended to heaven and sits by the Father in a place of authority!

A. Jesus didn’t just **come to earth**, he was **born of a virgin woman!**

1. It was not “beneath God to become human” as we are are!

Isaiah 7:14

14 The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).

2. God came to be “**with us**” by becoming “**one of us**”!
3. Even though our minds cannot comprehend the concept, Jesus was 100% God **AND** 100% MAN!

Hebrews 4:15

15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

B. He **saved us from our sin!** What does that really mean???

1. The Greek word most often used for **sin** is *harmatia*.
2. It simply means, “**to miss the mark**”.
3. This means Jesus came to save us from missing the **path** we should be walking, the **way** we should be living or **person** we are created to be!
4. **Forgiveness** is part of redemption! **Restoration** is also part of our redemption!!
5. We are meant to be loving, compassionate, merciful, gentle, honest and giving.....but because we miss the mark, we are not!!!!!!!
6. Jesus came to **reorient** us in the image of God!!
7. Atonement is an **Old English** word that created to try to express the meaning of the Greek and Hebrew—- **at-one-ment**.

Philippians 2:6-8

Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.
Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,
he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

C. He sits in the **place of AUTHORITY! At God’s right hand!**

Colossians 1:15-17

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.

1. The word “Lord” appears 537 times in the New Testament.
2. It means master, ruler, sovereign and king.
3. It signifies the highest authority of control!
4. What is amazing is this: **The God of the universe would come and live among us in a peasant family using a fading trough as His bed. He would CHOOSE to become human to show us God**

D. Jesus is the **resurrected Christ!** There is a resurrection!!!!

1. If Jesus did not fully rise from the dead, then redemption is not complete!
2. Jesus came **from God to represent God to Man.** Remember, He is the “express image of God”.
3. If He isn't risen then **evil, hate, death and sin** had the final word at the cross!
4. We **KNOW** that didn't happen.

Revelation 1:18

18 I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.