

The Message of Christianity

Created by: Ian A. Hicks

Who is God by Definition?

God is *the* Supreme (Sovereign) Being, Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of *all* that is. The Bible makes clear that there is *only* one God, and that there are no others (Isa 45:5). God is perfect in His power, goodness, and wisdom. The Bible tells us that everyone knows this God through His creation and are without excuse for denying His existence (Rom 1:18-20).

Who is God by Nature?

God is *spirit*, but He exists as three persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit [*The Trinity*]. God is infinite, incomparable, and unchanging. God knows all things [*omniscient*], is everywhere [*omnipresent*], and has all power and authority [*omnipotent*].

What is God's Character?

God is *truthful* (Jn. 14:6), He is *merciful* (Rom. 9:15-16), He is *loving* (Eph. 2:4-5), He is *holy* (Isa. 6:3), He is *patient* (2 Pet. 3:9), He is *just* (Deut. 32:4), He is *jealous* (Ex. 20:5), He is *eternal* (Deut. 33:27), etc.

Who is Man?

God created man on the sixth day of creation (Gen 1:24-31). Only man was created in the *image* of God, which distinguishes him from the animals.

Who is Adam?

Adam is the first, created man. He was formed from the dirt (Gen. 2:7). God breathed life into him, and he became a living soul. Adam was given dominion over the Garden of Eden (Gen. 1:26-28) to protect and take care of all that God had entrusted to him. God would make a helper for Adam named Eve.

What Happened?

The crafty serpent (*Satan*) deceived Adam and Eve into directly disobeying a command that God gave them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. By eating this fruit, the *fall* of mankind occurred.

What is the Bad News?

The fall of man was caused ultimately by Adam's disobedience. *Sin*¹ and *death* were introduced into the world by Adam (Rom 5:12). Since Adam represents all of mankind (*federal head*), sin and death are *imputed* to all that come from Adam's seed, meaning that all of mankind are under the curse of God, all men are *born in sin*, *dead in sin*, and at *enmity* with God. Mankind cannot resolve this issue in and of himself. Mankind is now under God's wrath (Jn 3:36), and if one remains in Adam, one will not only die physically, but will experience eternal death (Rom. 6:23) in the lake of fire because of God's just punishment.

The Promise

God doesn't leave mankind in this state. He promises in Gen. 3:15 that there is *One* that will come that will *redeem* mankind and *restore* what had been lost. The Old Testament makes

¹ "Sin is any lack of conformity to God's will in attitude, thought, or action, whether committed actively or passively. The center of all sin: autonomy, which is the replacing of God with self. Always closely associated with sin are its products—pride, selfishness, idolatry, and lack of peace (shalom)." – John

numerous predictions of this coming Messiah.

Did This Messiah come?

Yes! In the New Testament Scriptures, **Jesus** is the One who was the predicted Messiah, the seed of David, the One who would die for the sins of his people (Matt. 1:21) and bring reconciliation and restoration to His people Israel and the Gentile (non-Jew) nations.

What Did Jesus Do When He Came?

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom, healed the blind, cured people suffering with various illnesses but was rejected by his own people (*The Jews*) and was hung on a cross accused of blasphemy.

What is the Good News?

Jesus' death was predicted to happen in the Old Testament (Isa. 53) before

MacArthur, *Essential Christian Doctrine: A Handbook on Biblical Truth*, (Crossway, Wheaton, ILL, 2021), 246.

Violations of God's commands include lying, stealing, adultery (lust), blasphemy, etc.

He would establish His kingdom on earth. The good news is that Jesus *died*, was *buried*, and on the third day *rose from the grave* (1 Cor 15:3-4). We as Christians proclaim this good news to the ends of the world (Matt. 28:18-20).

What Did Jesus' Death Accomplish?

- **Substitutionary Atonement** - Jesus died as a substitute for sinners bearing the full penalty for sin in the place of all the sinners God would save. (2 Cor 5:21)
- **Wrath of God** - Jesus bore and satisfied the wrath of God the Father. (1 John 2:1)
- **Reconciliation** - Jesus restored our relationship with God which had been lost in the garden. (2 Cor 5:19)
- **Freedom from Sin** - Jesus frees us as believers from our slavery to sin and the Law and will one day remove us completely from sin and death's power.
- **Death is Defeated** - Jesus defeated death through his resurrection.

- **Forgiveness** - Those who trust in Jesus will be forgiven their sin. (Eph 1:7, Col. 1:14)
- **Righteousness** - Jesus imputes his righteousness to us.

What must I do?

God commands all men everywhere to **repent** (to *turn*) away from their past lives and sins, to follow Jesus Christ, and to **believe** in Him.

Romans 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 will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, leading to righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, leading to salvation.”

If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ and have turned away from your sin, be water baptized, begin attending a local (sound) congregation, and go and make disciples.

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