



## The Apostles' Creed

*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, dead and buried;  
 the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
         and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church,  
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

### What do Christians Believe?

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
 that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.* John 3:16 (NIV)

#### 1. Christians believe that \_\_\_\_\_.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
 that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.* John 3:16 (NIV)

Review of the world's major religions

- **Buddhism** believes God is irrelevant. If there is a God, God is not involved in the world or in our lives.
- **Hinduism** believes God (Brahman) is an impersonal, unknowable force who is distant, removed, and detached from our lives.
- **Islam** believes God is the Almighty who gave the Quran and demands strict adherence.
- **Judaism** believes that God is the giver of the Law and seeks justice, righteousness and obedience.
- **Christianity** focuses on God's love.

*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* 1 John 4:8 (NIV)

Some other faiths affirm that *God is love*, but that is foundational to Christianity.

#### 2. Christians believe that because God loves you, God acted to save you from \_\_\_\_\_.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
 that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.* John 3:16 (NIV)

Christians believe that the Good News of Jesus Christ is God's solution to a problem.

The Problem: \_\_\_\_\_.

Christianity recognizes what we already know. We struggle with sin, and sin has consequences.

- Sin harms us.
- Sin prevents us from experiencing the life God longs for us.
- Sin harms others, and
- Sin separates us from God.

**3. Christians believe that God came up with a plan to \_\_\_\_\_ on your behalf.**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,*

*that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16 (NIV)

What was God's remedy to deal with our sin problem once and for all?

God Himself put on flesh to become one of us!

**Our Hindu friends believe** that salvation is found in learning how to become perfect through a cycle of reincarnations until that day when through their own effort they can be reunited with God as a drop of water in a vast ocean.

**Our Buddhist friends believe** that salvation is found through meditation and detaching themselves from people, thoughts and desires over a cycle of thousands of lifetimes until finally their soul dissipates like vapor in the wind.

**Our Muslim friends believe** that salvation is found in fully yielding oneself to God through prayer, fasting, alms giving, a pilgrimage to Mecca, and strict adherence and obedience to the Quran. By doing these things they hope that Allah will accept them.

**Our Reform Judaism friends** do not believe in heaven or hell. They attempt to please God by living out Jewish values of justice, fairness and doing good deeds.

**Christians believe** salvation is not about what you do or don't do. Salvation is all about what God did for us in Jesus on the cross. Our response is to live out the gospel life in grateful appreciation.

If you are not a follower of Jesus but want to be, pray:

*Jesus Christ, I would like to be one of your followers.*

*I accept the gift of salvation you offer. I put my trust in you.*

*Help me to know you, honor you, and live for you. Forgive my sins. Wash me clean and make me new.*

*Empower me by your Holy Spirit to live out the gospel life. I receive you as my Lord and Savior. Amen.*