

# What do we believe?

*We are a group of Christians who love Jesus and try to follow him as we find him in the bible. We believe that the following truths are at the heart of Christianity:*

1. **GOD:** The one and only true God has no beginning and no end. He is the creator, and is active in the world to bring about his good plans and purposes. He is perfect in holiness, truth, faithfulness and love. He is the ruler and judge of all. He is one God in three distinct but equal persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2. **PEOPLE:** Men and women were made in God's likeness, to honour Him with their whole lives. However, because of Adam and Eve's disobedience, we have all inherited a sinful nature. We are sinners in our minds, our will, and our actions; in what we do, and what we fail to do. This brings God's anger, and results in separation from Him. Despite any of our own efforts, no matter how "religious" or "good", we are totally incapable of fixing our relationship with God.

But that's not the end of the story...

3. **JESUS CHRIST:** Jesus is the eternal Son of God. Whilst remaining fully God, He became fully man by being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born into this world of the virgin Mary. He is the only man who has lived a perfect sinless life in obedience to God, and because of this, he is able to be a perfect sacrifice for our sins. **This is the good news:** Through His death on the cross, Jesus took our sins on himself, so that we can be made right with God. Jesus returned to life bodily, proving that his death was enough to take away our sins. Jesus ascended to heaven, and now rules in heaven as Lord over all, where he represents us before God.

4. **SALVATION:** Only because of Jesus death on the cross can we be made right with God and receive forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, adoption into God's family and eternal life. This is the gift of God to all who turn away from their sin and put their trust in Christ.

5. **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** From the moment we put our trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. He helps us to understand the bible, become more like Jesus, and serve Him. The Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance, which is with God in heaven. The Spirit also unites us together as the church.

6. **THE CHURCH.** Those who trust in Christ all over the world are our family, the church. We meet together locally to worship God, and to help each other to love him and serve him more.

7. **THE FUTURE:** Christ will one day return in power and glory to raise the dead and judge all people. Believers will be welcomed into the presence of God forever. Unbelievers, together with Satan, will be eternally condemned and separated from God.

Why do we believe all this? Well it's because of what we find in God's word...

8. **The Bible:** The Bible is how God speaks to us. It is written by God through human authors. It is without error and is entirely true and trustworthy, the "last word" on what we believe and how we live.