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A brief overview of Christianity, the biggest religion in the world, centred on God and Jesus Christ. Christianity is the most popular religion in the world with over 2,000 million adherents. 42 million Britons see themselves as nominally Christian, and there are 6 million who are actively practising. Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Christians believe that God sent his Son to earth to save humanity from the consequences of its sins. One of the most important concepts in Christianity is that of Jesus giving his life on the Cross (the Crucifixion) and rising from the dead on the third day (the Resurrection). Christians believe that there is only one God, but that there are three elements to this one God: God the Father. God the Son. The Holy Spirit. Christians worship in churches. Their spiritual leaders are called priests or ministers. The Christian holy book is the Bible, and consists of the Old and New Testaments. Christian holy days such as Easter and Christmas are important milestones in the Western secular calendar. Further information available at: At Hearst Networks EMEA, we share stories that matter. A global broadcaster since 1995, we reach audiences in over 100 countries, including the UK, Nordics, Benelux, Central & Eastern Europe, Spain, Italy, Germany, Africa and the Middle East. Our stories are global and local, linear and digital, and always compelling. Personalities shine at Hearst Networks EMEA. Our culture embraces individuals, in all their daring, passionate, ambitious glory. Our people are our strength, and our differences are celebrated. We challenge each other, collaborate and come together, just as a family does; winning as a team and celebrating as one too. Everyone has a voice and should feel proud and free to run with their ideas, enjoying their successes and journey with us. And in such an evolving industry, tomorrow is always today. We anticipate change, identify future opportunities and are excited by the potential that tomorrow brings. We want to be famous for creating and sharing stories that matter - unique, trusted, entertaining, everywhere. Whether our stories challenge and inspire intellectually or simply entertain, we know that we are making a positive contribution to our audiences across the many diverse regions and countries in the UK, Europe, The Middle East and Africa. Striving to always do so requires passion. And it's with just as much passion that we strive to gain new audiences with our creativity and by using innovative technology, by partnering with leading and emerging local platforms. With our diverse line-up of original, high-quality programming, our distribution partners across EMEA recognise the benefits of offering Hearst Networks EMEA's distinctive, high quality brands on their platforms and services. We understand the opportunity to grow engagement with new audiences of all ages and through new partnerships with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat, along with our podcasts and on-demand SVOD services, we ensure our programming and unique stories reach audiences across the full demographic spectrum. Join our global team of talent. At Hearst Networks EMEA you'll find a team of innovative, creative and collaborative people who embrace change and want to continually try new things. With offices in London, Rome, Madrid, Warsaw, Munich and Johannesburg, we are a truly international company that celebrates difference and diversity. We offer a range of benefits such as a generous pension plan, life assurance and holiday allowance, and there are useful local perks in various offices, and summer Fridays across the whole company. But most of all, we will support you to develop and grow throughout your time with us. Learning is part of the journey at Hearst Networks EMEA and you'll be offered personal and professional development opportunities throughout your career with us. We'll do everything we can to see you thrive and grow. The church and its historyAspects of the Christian religionThe Christian community and the worldReferences & Edit History Related Topics Philosophy & Religion Scriptures Christianity, major religion stemming from the life, teachings, and death of Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ, or the Anointed One of God) in the 1st century ce. It has become the world's religions and, geographically, the most widely diffused of all faiths. It has a constituency of more than two billion believers. Its largest groups are the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the Protestant churches. The Oriental Orthodox churches constitute one of the oldest branches of the tradition but had been out of contact with Western Christianity and Eastern Orthodoxy from the middle of the 5th century until the late 20th century because of a dispute over Christology (the doctrine of Jesus Christ's nature and significance). Significant movements within the broader Christian world and sometimes transcending denominational boundaries are Pentecostalism, Charismatic Christianity, Evangelicalism, and fundamentalism. In addition, there are numerous independent churches throughout the world. See also Anglicanism; Baptist; Calvinism; Congregationalism; Evangelical church; Lutheranism; Oriental Orthodoxy; presbyterian; Reformed and Presbyterian churches.This article first considers the nature and development of the Christian religion, its ideas, and its institutions. This is followed by an examination of several intellectual manifestations of Christianity. Finally, the position of Christianity in the world, the relations among its divisions and denominations, its missionary outreach to other peoples, and its relations with other world religions are discussed. For supporting material on various topics, see angel and demon; Bible; biblical literature; canon law; creed; Christology; doctrine and dogma; ecumenism; eschatology; exegesis; faith; grace; heaven; hell; heresy; Jesus Christ; liturgical movement; millennialism; miracle; monasticism; monotheism; New Testament; Old Testament; original sin; papacy; prayer; priesthood; purgatory; sacrament; salvation; schism; scripture; theism; theology; and worship. At its most basic, Christianity is the faith tradition that focuses on the figure of Jesus Christ. In this context, faith refers both to the believers' act of trust and to the content of their faith. As a tradition, Christianity is more than a system of religious belief. It also has generated a culture, a set of ideas and ways of life, practices, and artifacts that have been handed down from generation to generation since Jesus first became the object of faith. Christianity is thus both a living tradition of faith and the culture that the faith leaves behind. The agent of Christianity is the church, the community of people who make up the body of believers. To say that Christianity "focuses" on Jesus Christ is to say that somehow it brings together its beliefs and practices and other traditions in reference to a historical figure. Few Christians, however, would be content to keep this reference merely historical. Although their faith tradition is historical—i.e., they believe that transactions with the divine do not occur in the realm of timeless ideas but among ordinary humans through the ages—the vast majority of Christians focus their faith in Jesus Christ as someone who is also a present reality. They may include many other references in their tradition and thus may speak of "God" and "human nature" or of the "church" and the "world," but they would not be called Christian if they did not bring their attentions first and last to Jesus Christ. While there is something simple about this focus on Jesus as the central figure, there is also something very complicated. That complexity is revealed by the thousands of separate churches, sects, and denominations that make up the modern Christian tradition. To project these separate bodies against the background of their development in the nations of the world is to suggest the bewildering variety. To picture people expressing their adherence to that tradition in their prayer life and church-building, in their quiet worship or their strenuous efforts to change the world, is to suggest even more of the variety. Pop Quiz: 19 Things to Know About Christianity Given such complexity, it is natural that throughout Christian history both those in the tradition and those surrounding it have made attempts at simplification. Two ways to do this have been to concentrate on the "essence" of the faith, and thus on the ideas that are integral to it, or to be concerned with the "identity" of the tradition, and thus on the boundaries of its historical experience. Modern scholars have located the focus of this faith tradition in the context of monotheistic religions. Christianity addresses the historical figure of Jesus Christ against the background of, and while seeking to remain faithful to, the experience of one God. It has consistently rejected polytheism and atheism. A second element of the faith tradition of Christianity, with rare exceptions, is a plan of salvation or redemption. That is to say, the believers in the church picture themselves as in a plight from which they need rescue. For whatever reason, they have been distanced from God and need to be saved. Christianity is based on a particular experience or scheme directed to the act of saving—that is, of bringing or "buying back," which is part of what redemption means, these creatures of God to their source in God. The agent of that redemption is Jesus Christ. It is possible that through the centuries the vast majority of believers have not used the term essence to describe the central focus of their faith. The term is itself of Greek origin and thus represents only one part of the tradition, one element in the terms that have gone into making up Christianity. Essence refers to those qualities that give something its identity and are at the centre of what makes that thing different from everything else. To Greek philosophers it meant something intrinsic to and inherent in a thing or category of things, which gave it its character and thus separated it from everything of different character. Thus, Jesus Christ belongs to the essential character of Christianity and gives it a unique identity. If most people are not concerned with defining the essence of Christianity, in practice they must come to terms with what the word essence implies. Whether they are engaged in being saved or redeemed on the one hand, or thinking and speaking about that redemption, its agent, and its meaning on the other, they are concentrating on the essence of their experience. Those who have concentrated from within the faith tradition have also helped to give it its identity. It is not possible to speak of the essence of a historical tradition without referring to how its ideal qualities have been discussed through the ages. Yet one can take up the separate subjects of essence and identity in sequence, being always aware of how they interrelate. My name is Jonnie and I'm a Christian. I believe in one God who has shown himself to us in three ways. This is called the Trinity: God, the Father in Heaven, Jesus who was God in human form and the Holy Spirit who is with us always. I believe that Jesus was killed but then came back to life, which we call the resurrection, and went to heaven. He showed God's love for everyone by opening the way for us to escape hell and join him in heaven when we die. I can talk to God anywhere, so I often start the day with a prayer asking for God's help during the day. But on Sundays I come to church to worship with my friends and family. There are different denominations in Christianity and I belong to the Church of England. During the service we'll hear someone read from the Bible and it'll be explained by our priest. The priest has different names in different denominations, so they might be called a vicar or a minister or a pastor. Some Christians like to dress up when they go to church but most of the time we can wear whatever we like. But the priest or minister usually wears special clothes, called vestments. In some denominations like the Catholic Church, the vestments might be a bit more elaborate. And in others, like the Baptist Church, the pastor might just wear a normal suit. There are no rules about what I should eat but some Christians eat fish instead of meat on Fridays and on holy days. And some might even fast sometimes, meaning they go without food altogether. Before a meal, we often say grace thanking God for our food. Christianity is the world's biggest religion, and yet many people don't know very much about it. If you're one of those, then this is a great place to start! Did you know, for example, that Christianity isn't about going to church, or doing good things? It's about having a relationship with God. This is what makes it different to other religions. Christians don't have to depend on trying extra hard to be good, but celebrate the fact that Jesus gave his life in our place, so that simply by trusting in him, anyone can have that relationship with God. That's why Christianity is called 'Good News'. We've pulled together a few articles here to guide you through the basics. But if you can't see what you're looking for, just search, or better still, click the blue square and start a conversation with a real-life Christian. We will gladly answer any question, big or small. God is central to the Christian faith and these articles aim to give you a greater understanding of who he is. The Bible gives us glimpses of God and tells us about some of his characteristics - his love, compassion, power and creativity. Read More Who was Jesus? Was he real? You may have heard the term Christian. This article aims to give you a greater understanding of what it means to be a Christian. Find out more Christianity is the world's largest faith. But how exactly do you become a Christian, and what does it mean? Read More These article are of a more practical nature, aiming to give you insight into the hows of the Christian faith. Reading the Bible is much easier if you follow some simple steps and get prepared. And, as you delve into it, you might find that you are more familiar with the Bible than you expected: it crops up in everything from Shakespeare to Hollywood movies; it's inspired musicians, historical figures and campaigners. Read More Going to church for the first time Here are some articles that may introduce some new things about the Christian faith you didn't know. Please don't hesitate to ask us anything you like by clicking on the blue square. We look forward to chatting with you soon. Christianity is focussed on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe to be the Son of God. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the Middle East over 2,000 years ago. Christians believe there is only one God, but that he is revealed in three different forms: God the Father God the Son The Holy Spirit Christians model themselves on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught people to love God and love their neighbour. Christians believe that God sent Jesus to live as a human being in order to save humanity from the consequences of its sins. Sins are the bad things humanity had chosen to do which had separated them from God. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus this broken relationship with God is restored. The Christian holy book is the Bible. It is divided into the Old and New Testaments. The New Testament explains how God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to restore the broken relationship between people and God which had been caused by human wrong-doing. Jesus was executed on a cross (Crucifixion) as a criminal by the Romans, and according to Christian teaching after three days he rose from the dead (the Resurrection). Start activity Many Christians worship in churches. Some groups meet in homes and other buildings. 'Church' means the gathering of Christians as well as the building in which Christians worship. Their leaders are called priests or ministers. Many churches hold a service called Communion, Eucharist or Mass, in which bread and wine are shared together, just as Jesus did with his followers before his death. Skip image gallery A Christian church Christian churches are a familiar sight in the UK. The main part where worshippers sit is called a nave. Many churches, such as this one in Suffolk, have tall towers at the western end which house bells. Sometimes the towers will have steep spires added to them. The Bible The Bible is the Christian holy book. In churches the Bible is placed on a stand called a lectern so that it can be read out loud. In Anglican churches the lectern will often be in the shape of an eagle. Eagles are associated with John the Apostle who was one of Jesus's twelve disciples. The Archbishop of Canterbury The Archbishop of Canterbury is the leader of the Church of England and head of the worldwide Anglican communion. Justin Welby, the current Archbishop, is stood on the left in this photo, next to Patriarch Kirill who is the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols is the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster and head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. The leader of the Catholic church is Pope Francis who lives in the Vatican in Rome. Amish children The Amish belong to a group of Christians known as Anabaptists. The Amish emigrated from Europe to the United States from the 18th century onwards. Even though they live in America, many Amish still speak a form of German. Nuns Nuns are women who choose to take strict religious vows and live together in monasteries. There are many orders of nuns in the Catholic Church. The photo shows Siervas, a rock band formed by nuns based in Peru to spread the word of God through music. Back to top To help your class understand Christianity, 13-year old Kirsty, 11-year old Nathan and 8-year olds Kiera and Santos share their stories and experiences in this series of short films. BBC Bitesize for Teachers has thousands of free, curriculum-linked resources to help deliver lessons - all arranged by subject and age group. Back to top Back to top Language: English Cymraeg Gaeilge Gàidhlig What Does "In Jesus' Name" Actually Mean? Ever wonder what "In Jesus' name" really means? It's more than a prayer tag—it's a powerful way to live every moment as an offering to Christ. This deep dive will change how you pray, work, love, and lead—starting now.