

Oooo – What a subject for a Doodler to tackle! Talking about being a Christian is serious business and probably, in some aspects, very controversial.

I am quite aware that people do not always fall into nice neat categories, but, I would like to suggest three groups of people with regard to this question.

Group 1. There are those who would say that they are definitely not Christians because they belong to another faith, because they have thought about Christianity and feel that it is a no-no for them or who are not interested.



Group 2. Those who would say that they are definitely Christians. Many of these will be able to remember the exact day that they decided to make that decision; others will not recall a particular time or day but feel that it is something that has gradually happened to them over a period of time.



(You may be wondering why the creature on the left is there. I typed in the word 'Tick' and wanted something like the tick on the right and the 'Tick' on the left is what I got!)

Group 3. Those who are interested and would like to know more, have questions about certain parts of the Christian beliefs or would answer the question by saying, "I don't know." There may also be some who have actually made the decision to become a Christian, but, who lack the assurance that it has really happened.

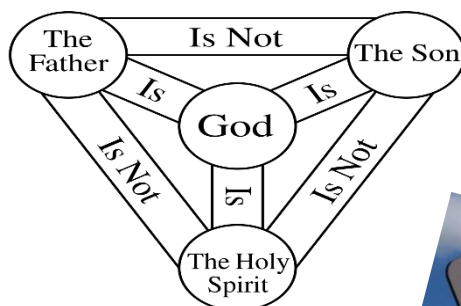


There are quite a number of different denominations in the Christian Church, such as Pentecostal, Methodist, Church of England and Baptist. Their services and styles of worship may differ from each other but the basic Christian beliefs are common to them all.

Some of the main beliefs of the Christian Church

****** Our God is a living God who loves us, hears us and helps us. He knows everything, can do anything and is present with us wherever we are.

****** Three facets of God are God as a Father, God as Jesus Christ the Son and God as the Holy Spirit. He is not three different Gods, but one God. An illustration of something similar is this – A woman can be a daughter, a mother and a sister, yet she is still only one person. There are other faiths that believe that Jesus was a good man who lived on earth as a human being, but, they do not regard Him as God so they do not have this basic belief that is a vital aspect in the definition of Christianity.



****** People generally do not like to talk about death, however, it is the Christian ideas about death that mainly set Christianity apart from other faiths and is an integral part of what we believe. Human beings are



made up of a body, mind and spirit. At death the body and mind cease to function, but, the person's spirit still lives on. Death is not a full stop with everything finished. So, what happens to the



spirit part of us? The Bible tells us that for those who have made the decision to follow Jesus, their spirits will go into the presence of God in Heaven, but, those who have not made such a decision will be in Hell away from God's presence. We hear very few sermons preached about Hell and we can often find it difficult to think about a loving God who allows this to happen. Some believe that all of us go into God's presence regardless of the sort of life we have led or any decisions that may or may not have been made. This idea is contrary to what Jesus teaches us in the Bible and does not fit in with our going into the presence of a righteous and holy God.



****** Where does Jesus fit into all of this? We have all done and said things that are wrong so none of us are fit to go into the presence of a holy God. Christians believe that when Jesus died on the cross He said "Sorry" on our behalf, which enables us to have a clean slate and for our spirits to go into God's presence. God made this possible for us because He loves us unconditionally and wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

****** Even though Jesus made it possible for us all to go into Heaven, not everyone avails themselves of this offer. There has to be a decision to believe in Jesus and have the desire to follow Him; it is not something that just happens automatically.

****** It is difficult for us to understand how becoming a Christian works. It is even more difficult, if not impossible, for us as human beings to even begin to imagine what it will be like to be in Heaven. No Doodle will ever be able to give a full explanation of all that Christianity entails. It is only through the reading of our Bibles and praying that we are able to see the fuller picture of the nature of God and how it is His desire to be part of our lives on a daily basis.

Related Bible Readings:

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 6 One God

John 1: 1 – 5 Jesus as the Word

Luke 23: 32 – 43 Death of Jesus