

# The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith

## WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? 10.20.19

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth,  
I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there, He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy \*catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW THE "BASICS?"

1. What we **BELIEVE** has vital, eternal consequences
2. The **BIBLE** is the final authority on all that it addresses

### THE BASICS

#### 1. Who is God?

**Answer:** God is **HOLY TRINITY**; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Three persons in one God

#### 2. What is God like?

**Answer:** God is perfect in **POWER, KNOWLEDGE**, and in His **HOLY LOVE**

#### 3. What did God make?

**Answer:** God spoke **EVERYTHING** into being, by His own **FREE CHOICE**, and it was **VERY GOOD**

#### 4. Why is there evil?

**Answer:** God gave us **FREE WILL** to obey and we did not

#### 5. Who is Jesus Christ?

**Answer:** The eternally begotten Son of God and the Son of Mary. Fully **DIVINE**. Fully **HUMAN**.

#### 6. Why did the Son of God become human?

### In the Apostles' Creed...

*"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary" goes to heart of...*

1. **WHO** Jesus is
2. Apart from **WHAT** He has done for us

### Who is Jesus? = God in the **FLESH** [Incarnation]

*"The Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." John 1:14*

*"Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form..." Philipians 2:6-7*

*"The incarnation is the greatest testimony to God's desire to redeem the world and to make good on his promise to Abraham to bless all the nations of the world through his offspring."*

Timothy Tennent

- He is Fully **GOD** – "our LORD," the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity  
= He had a divine Father, divine power, and a divine will  
= He is **HOLY, UNCREATED, ETERNAL, RELATIONAL**, and **LOVE**

*"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him." John 1:1-3*

*"[Jesus] The Father and I are one." John 10:30*

*"We look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed." Titus 2:13*

- He was Fully **HUMAN** – "His only Son," the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam  
= He had a human mother, human body, human will and human emotions

Who do you say He is? \_\_\_\_\_

*“The Scriptures tell us, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living person.’ But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 15:45*

*“The angel replied, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.’” Luke 1:35*

*“In Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.”  
Colossians 2:9*

- He is the **LADDER** between Heaven and Earth

= Jesus bridges the **GAP** between heaven and earth

*“I [Jesus] tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.” John 1:51*

*“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.”  
Hebrews 4:15*

*“There can be no clearer demonstration of God’s love than this; God became a man. So now when we look to God, we see in the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, a real human being, staring back at us from the right hand of God the Father, beckoning us up the ladder.” Phil Tallon*

*“If Jesus wasn’t fully human, then He didn’t come all the way down, and we can’t get on the ladder. If Jesus wasn’t fully divine, then He can’t take us all the way up back to God. We can climb the ladder, but we can’t get to where God is.” Phil Tallon*

The **SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT** question we **ALL** have to answer is the same one Jesus posed to his disciples:

*“Who do you say I am?” Matthew 16:15*

*“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6*

*“These are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.” John 20:31*

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]