

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Christianity 101

(revised 6/24/17)

**A six-week course on what Christians believe  
& how to live as a follower of Christ.**

## **Content:**

We will cover...

- The Apostles' Creed - What we believe
- Overview of Scripture - What's in the Bible
- Discussion of Baptism - What is baptism?
  - The Lord's Prayer - How we pray
- The Ten Commandments / Sermon on the Mount - How we live
  - Spiritual Principles & Practices

## The Creeds

### 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.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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.

### *“I believe in God”*

Question: What does it mean to *believe in God*?

BELIEF = FAITH = TRUST

*And this is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. -1 John 3:23*

“To trust (God) is to have confidence in him in every dimension of our real life, to believe that he is right about and adequate to everything.” – Dallas Willard

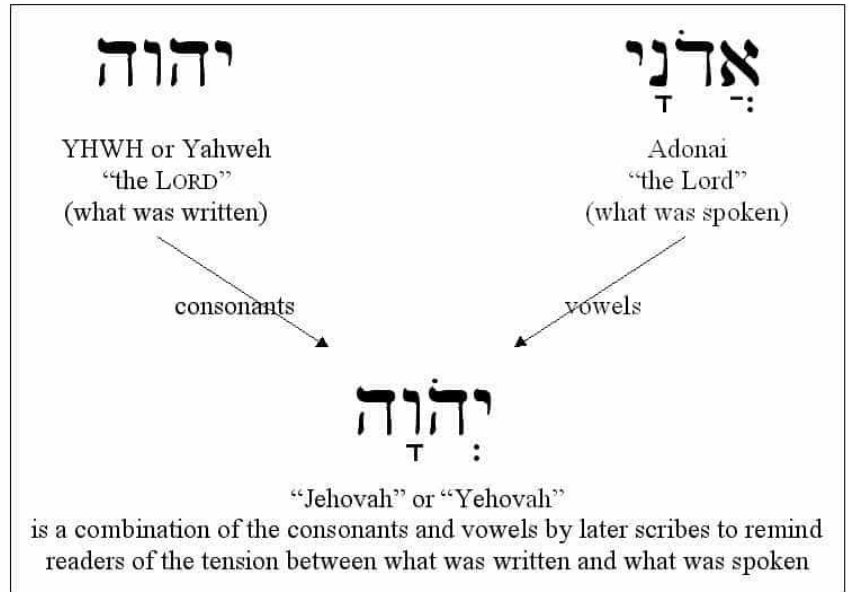
DOUBT

PARTICULAR GOD

NO OTHER GODS / IDOLS

HIS NAME : יהוה = YHWH

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you." - Exodus 3:13-14



“I am that I am” – a Being that exists totally from its own resources. The Father has life ‘in himself,’ we are later told by Jesus, and has given the same kind of life to the Son (Jn 5:26). Nothing other than God has this character of *totally* self-sufficient being or self-determination.” - Dallas Willard

## HIS CHARACTER

*The Lord passed before Moses, and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin... -Exodus 34:5-6*

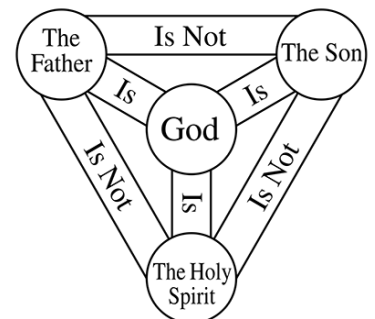
“...God is love.” -1 John 4:8

## THE TRINITY: THREE IN ONE

God (the Father) and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are all God, and they are all the same God.

*Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” -Matthew 28:19*

*Jesus said “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. -John 14:16*



## NOT TRITHEISM OR UNITARIANISM

## “the Father”

### RELATIONSHIP - FATHER & SON

*Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise...I can do nothing on my own.” -John 5:19,30*

### THROUGH CHRIST, WE ARE ADOPTED INTO GOD’S FAMILY

*Jesus said... “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” -John 20:17*

*We are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. -Romans 8:16-17*

## “almighty”

### ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES

*In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will. -Ephesians 1:11*

### GOD IS OMNIPOTENT (ALL-POWERFUL)

Question: does God’s omnipotence mean God can do anything?

### HUMAN FREE WILL

Question: does free will limit what God can do?

FREE WILL ENSURES THE GLORY WE GIVE TO GOD HAS VALUE & MEANING

FREE WILL MAKES US MORALLY ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

### EVIL IS MASTERED

*The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. -Romans 8:18*

### GOD IS COMPLETELY TRUSTWORTHY

**“maker of heaven and earth”**

THE WORLD IS HERE BECAUSE GOD CREATED IT

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth.*

-Genesis 1:1

CREATOR & CREATURE DISTINCTION

...TO RIGHTLY UNDERSTAND GOD

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. –Isaiah 55:8-9*

GOD HAS MADE US IN HIS IMAGE

*For everything created by God is good... - 1 Timothy 4:4*

GOD DOES NOT DEPEND ON US; WE WERE MADE TO DEPEND ON HIM

GOD DOES NOT EXIST FOR OUR PLEASURE; WE EXIST FOR HIS PLEASURE

GOD IS NOT LIKE US, IN MANY WAYS

...TO RIGHTLY UNDERSTAND THE WORLD

WE DON'T OWN THE WORLD

THE MATERIAL WORLD IS NOT TO BE DEVALUED

*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. -Genesis 1:31*

*For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving... -1 Timothy 4:4*

...TO RIGHTLY UNDERSTAND OURSELVES

I AM NOT MY OWN MASTER