

Religion and Philosophy: Christian Beliefs

Key Word	Definition
1 Bible	The holy book of Christians made up of 66 'books' written by a number of authors over a long period of time.
2 Old Testament	The first section of the Bible written before the birth of Jesus.
3 New Testament	The second section of the Bible written after the birth of Jesus.
4 Gospels	First four books in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) that give accounts of the life of Jesus.
5 Monotheism	The belief in one true God.
6 Omnipotent	The all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God.
7 Omnibenevolent	All-loving – a characteristic often associated with God.
8 Omniscient	All-knowing—often associated with God.
9 Immanent	Active within creation—associated with God.
10 Transcendent	Beyond or outside this world, associated with God.
11 Problem of evil	The atheist argument that God can't exist because he is either not powerful enough to stop evil or not loving enough to want to stop it.
12 Theodicies	Arguments about why God allows evil and suffering in the world.
13 Free will	A person's ability to make free choices in life.
14 Trinity	The three persons of God: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
15 Holy Spirit	The person of God that guides Christians and makes God immanent.
16 Apostle's Creed	A well-known statement of the most important Christian beliefs.
17 Genesis	The first book in the Bible that includes how God created the
18 Dominion	God has given humans the power to rule over creation.
19 The Fall	Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit and were sent out of the Garden of Eden to Earth.
20 Sin	An act that goes against God's laws.

21 Original Sin	The tendency to disobey God that started with Adam and Eve disobeying God.
22 Divine revelation	The word of God given to humans.
23 Literal	Understanding something exactly as it is written.
24 Metaphorical	When the parts of a story are seen as a representation of something else.
25 Incarnation	God becoming human in the form of Jesus.

26 Atonement	The belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God.
27 Virgin birth	The belief that Mary miraculously became pregnant by the Holy Spirit.
28 Miracles	An act that goes against the laws of nature.
29 Blasphemy	Being disrespectful to God.
30 Messiah	The 'Chosen One' or a 'Anointed One'.

31 Crucifixion	Jesus was killed through being nailed to a cross.
32 Israelites	Descendants of Abraham who worshipped one God.
33 Sacrifice	The Israelites sacrificed (killed) an animal to say sorry to God for their sins.
34 Salvation	The belief that Jesus saved humanity from death and sin.
35 Saviour	A person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty.

36 Last Supper	The final meal (bread and wine) Jesus had with his disciples before he died.
37 Eucharist	Eating bread and drinking wine in memory of Jesus' sacrifice.
38 The Resurrection	Three days after the crucifixion Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.
39 Predestination	God has decided before birth who will achieve salvation .
40 Charismatic Christians	Christians who emphasise the presence and the work of the Holy Spirit.

41 Eschatology	Beliefs about the 'last things', death, judgement, heaven and hell.
42 Nicene Creed	A statement of Christian faith from 325CE.
43 Judgement	The belief that God, Jesus, will judge humans on their lives.
44 Parable	A short story which contains a deeper meaning.
45 Purgatory	A Catholic belief in a waiting room for heaven.