

Y11 RPE: Christian Beliefs

It is estimated that there are around 2.5 billion Christians (about one third of the world's population) in the 21st century. The Christian Church [group of followers] is made up of different **denominations** who each have a slightly different interpretations of the teachings of the **Bible**, and organise their church structures and **services** differently.

A summary of what Christians believe can be found in the **Apostles' Creed**, but ideas about Jesus and his teachings have been added to over time, including the **Nicene Creed** in 325CE.

Christians are **monotheist** – believing there is only one God: *“I believe in one God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth”*

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling around us”

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall perish but shall have eternal life”

“He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand side of the Father”

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me”

KEY WORDS

(G3-5 learn only italics)

Absolution: when a priest forgives your sins after confession

Ascension: when Jesus rose to heaven 40 days after his resurrection

Christ: “anointed one”, title given to Jesus as a sign of respect

Christian: someone who believes in and follows Jesus’ teachings

Church: (1) the building where Christians worship, (2) the congregation who go into the world to teach about Jesus, (3) the group of all believers around the world

Confession: asking a priest for forgiveness on behalf of God; one of the seven sacraments in the Roman Catholic church

Father: part of the trinity, another term for God’s loving nature

Forgiveness: central teaching in Christianity, main teaching of Jesus

Heaven: the place (or state) where souls are reunited with God after death

Hell: the place (or state) where souls are separated from God after death

Holy Spirit: the non-physical, motivating part of the trinity

Immanent: belief God is close by and involved in the world

Incarnate: belief that god took human form in Jesus

Messiah: a Jewish term to refer to the expected prophet sent by God

Pentecost: annual festival remembering the Holy Spirit speaking to the disciples after Jesus’ death

Repent: the first and necessary step towards forgiveness (asking for it)

Resurrection: when Jesus rose from the dead (his biggest miracle)

Salvation: being saved from sin by following Jesus’ teachings

Son: final part of the Trinity; the person of Jesus

Transcendent: the idea God is beyond human understanding and exists outside of space and time

Trinity: three parts of God in one (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)