

What is the church?

The Trinity

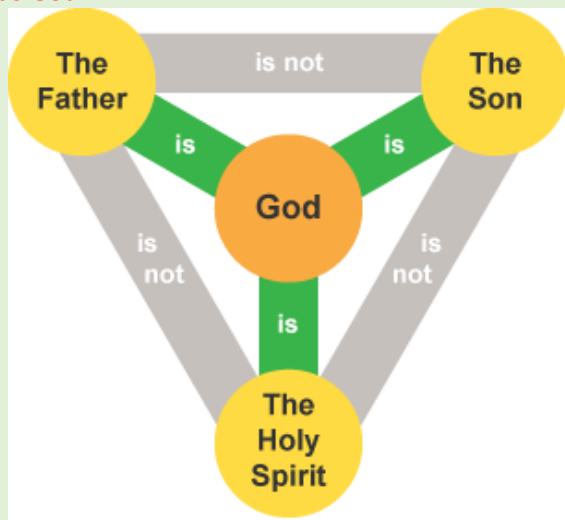
The Trinity refers to the idea that God is one, but exists in three different Persons. The word 'trinity' comes from the word 'tri' meaning 'three' and 'unity' meaning 'one'.

Christians believe that there are three distinct Persons to this one God and that these three Persons form a unity. This belief is called the doctrine of the Trinity:

God the Father - the creator and sustainer of all things

God the Son - the incarnation of God as a human being, Jesus Christ, on Earth

God the Holy Spirit - the power of God which is active in the world, drawing people towards God.



Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Genesis 1 describes the creation of the heavens and the earth, while Genesis 2 focuses on the creation of the first humans, Adam and Eve: Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)

Genesis 1 explains how:

God is the only creator.

God existed before he created the world.

The world was well planned and is sustained by God.

God blessed creation; all creation is holy.

God created everything in Heaven and on Earth in six days.

On the seventh day, God rested.

Key terms

Benevolent – kind.

Conscience - An inner sense (or 'voice') which communicates what is right or wrong in one's behaviour.

Denomination – Different sub groups within one religion.

Genesis - The first book of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) describing the origins of humanity and humans' relationship with God.

Heaven - A place, or a state of mind, associated with God and the afterlife.

Hell - A place or state of torment and punishment for those who have done wrong.

Holy Spirit - The third element of the 'Trinity' (God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit is active as God's presence and power in the world.

Incarnation -The belief that God took human form in Jesus Christ. It is also the belief that God in Christ is active in the Church and in the world.

Liturgical – Following the word of the Bible regularly through prayer and worship in church. Non-liturgical worship is a style of worship that changes every time (spontaneous)

Monotheistic – Belief in one God

Nicene Creed – A set of beliefs that ALL Christians have.

Omniscient – All knowing

Omnipotent – All powerful.

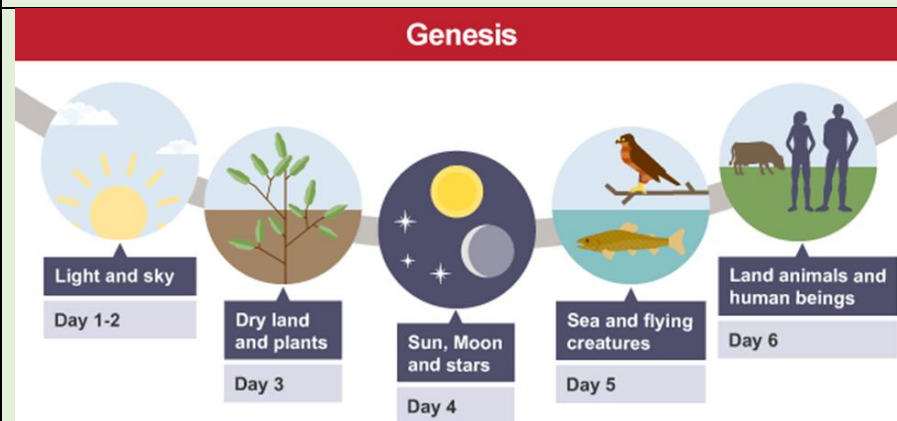
Original sin - The transference of Adam and Eve's breach of God's trust to all of humanity.

Purgatory - Catholic belief. Where the soul goes to be cleansed of sin before Heaven.

Sacraments - means a 'sign of the sacred'. Catholics have 7 sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation (confession), confirmation, marriage, holy orders and anointing of the sick Protestantism as a whole only affirms 2 sacraments.

The Trinity – The belief that there are three parts to God (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit).

Tritheism – the belief in three Gods.



Eschatology – Life after death.

Christianity teaches that:

Heaven is a perfect place where they will be united with God.

Heaven is a place of **eternal** life.

After death, each person will be judged based on their good and bad deeds, and the nature of their afterlife will depend on this judgement.

Hell is thought of by Christians as a place of punishment and separation from God.

Catholics also believe in Purgatory. Comes from Latin word *purgare* meaning 'make clean'. Catholics believe people who have died go there to be purified from their sins.

8. God Will Judge the Secrets of our Heart by His Son

VERSE 16

"on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus"



face to face

The Eucharist

The **Eucharist**, also known as **Holy Communion**, is a sacrament that commemorates the **Last Supper**. Not all Christians celebrate this sacrament.

The most important element of the Eucharist is the bread and the wine, but there are varying beliefs about the roles of these items.

Catholics believe that the bread and the wine become the actual flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. This belief is known as **transubstantiation**.

Some Christians believe that the Holy Communion is a re-enactment or commemoration of the Last Supper. The bread and wine are seen as symbolic of Jesus' death.

Church of England Christians believe that the bread and wine hold the spiritual presence of the body and blood of Jesus but do not become it.

"Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen." One of the Church of England Eucharist prayers.



Many Christians believe that baptism is important because Jesus was baptised, and after his **resurrection** he told his disciples that they should be baptised too.

John the Baptist was the first Jew to use baptism to symbolise the **forgiveness** of sins. It was John who baptised Jesus. Many Christians believe that baptising cleanses people from **original sin**.

Baptism is practised by nearly all Christian **denominations** as it is seen as an instruction from God and a way of following Jesus' example.

However, the denominations practise baptism in different ways.

Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity. About 2000 years ago Jesus was born a Jewish boy to a human woman, Mary, in Bethlehem. Jesus Christ is believed to be the Son of God and came to earth to teach about love and fellowship. **Incarnation** means to 'take on flesh.' It is the term used to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God took on flesh. It is important for Christians that Jesus is both fully man and fully God. The Bible teaches Jesus was born through the immaculate conception and that Mary was virginal.

He represents the person that all Christians must try to be. As Jesus was a human he could feel pain, sadness and suffering like you and me. Jesus lived for 33 years before being betrayed by Judas Iscariot and then crucified by the Romans – he was crucified around A.D. 30 in Jerusalem. After Jesus was sent to Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman governor of Judea at the time, Pilate offered the choice of who to condemn to death to the crowd, as was tradition. The crowd chose to free Barabbas, a well-known criminal, thereby condemning Christ to death. He died on the cross so that those that believe in him will be forgiven all their sins. Three days later Jesus rose from the dead – this is called **the Resurrection**. Jesus is also known as the Son of God, the Light of the World, the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd.

Jesus' death was an "**atonement**" for our sin, meaning he gave his life to make amends for the sins of everybody else.