

Topic

Christianity:

- Beliefs
- Worship
- Practice



Key Words

- Jesus
- Church
- Messiah
- Bible
- Trinity
- Saviour



Jesus As The Messiah

Messiah is a Hebrew word meaning 'anointed one'. Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah because through his crucifixion and resurrection he brought salvation to humankind.

God gave his only son, Jesus, so that all humans could be saved

Jesus was a perfect human - he had no sin

God placed all of humanity's sins on Jesus when he was crucified

Jesus' actions meant that there was a reconciliation between God and humanity

Jesus' death atoned for human sin

As a result of Jesus' sacrifice, humans now have the possibility of going to Heaven

Christianity

Beliefs

While there are many different types of Christians, the majority of Christians share the same basic beliefs. All Christians believe in one God, and most also believe that Jesus was God's son sent to Earth in human form. Jesus was put to death but was resurrected and ascended to heaven. Christians believe that the events of Jesus's life are important and that people should follow his teachings.

Holy Book

The Christian holy book is the Bible, which means 'books' as it is a collection of many different books gathered together into a single volume. The Christian Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament was written before the birth of Jesus and is based on ancient Jewish scriptures called the Tanakh. In Protestant Christianity, there are 39 Old Testament books, with 46 in Catholicism.

Worship

Many Christians worship in special buildings such as churches or chapels, and Christian worship can be different depending on the denomination.

Symbol

The cross is the symbol of Christianity. Jesus Christ was executed by the Romans and died by being crucified on a wooden cross. Christians remember his death and resurrection by wearing crosses. Sometimes crosses will have a figure of Jesus on them. These are called crucifixes.

Denominations

Christians share many beliefs, but they don't all agree on everything. This has resulted in the development of different groups within the religion called denominations. Examples of these include Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic. Different Christian denominations worship in different ways. Anglicans, Catholics and Orthodox Christians have a set form of worship. It is a formal ritual based around the sacraments, particularly Holy Communion.

Jesus As The Son Of God

Most Christians believe that Jesus, as well as being fully human, is also fully God. Most Christians believe that Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity and is the Son of God.

Theme

RELIGION PEACE AND CONFLICT

Key Words

- Religion
- Peace
- Conflict
- Jihad
- Lesser Jihad
- Greater Jihad

Key Questions

- What is Jihad?
- What is lesser jihad?
- What is greater Jihad?
- Is war ever justified?
- What is fighting for a cause?
- What is extremism?
- What are conditions of war?

What is Jihad?

The literal meaning of Jihad is struggle or effort, and it means much more than holy war. Muslims use the word Jihad to describe three different kinds of struggle:

- 1 A believer's internal struggle to live out the Muslim faith as well as possible. 2 The struggle to build a good Muslim society.
3 Holy war: the struggle to defend Islam, with force if necessary

What is 'Lesser Jihad'?

Lesser jihad is about defending Islam from threat. Some people still take up arms against anybody they see as an enemy of Islam. However, many Muslims believe that lesser jihad is of less relevance today than in the past, when Muslims were being persecuted.

Lesser jihad is sometimes called a holy war. It must be approved by a religious leader, fought in self-defence and not used to either convert people to Islam or gain land.

What is 'Greater Jihad'?

Greater jihad is about making the effort to be a good Muslim through a personal struggle to improve spiritually. It is a duty and an act of worship. It also means fighting against the nafs (soul) and making it do the right things

To do this Muslims should:

- follow the Five Pillars of Islam
- forgive others
- work for social justice
- study the Qur'an
- help those in need
- avoid negative qualities, eg greed
- avoid temptations, eg alcohol

Religious Views on War

Christianity - The main Christian view of war ethics is contained in the doctrine of the Just War.

The basic assumption of modern Christians is that war is rarely justified and should be avoided unless the Just War conditions are met

Buddhism - Non-violence is at the heart of Buddhist thinking and behavior. The first of the five precepts that all Buddhists should follow is "Avoid killing, or harming any living thing."

Buddhism is essentially a peaceful tradition. Nothing in Buddhist scripture gives any support to the use of violence as a way to resolve conflict

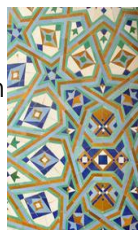
Judaism - Judaism teaches that war is sometimes necessary in self-defense and in order to bring about peace. It may therefore be justified.

PEACE



Topics

- Living the Muslim life
- Healthy living & Islam
- 4 Schools of Fiqh
- Halal and Haram



What Is Halal?

Halal is that which adheres to Shariah (Islamic Law). Halal meat must be slaughtered in a specific manner according to the Quran and Hadith



What Is Haram?

The Arabic term for forbidden (unlawful). For example certain food and drinks are considered Haraam such as pork and alcohol. Muslims must choose between Halal and Haraam

Key Words

- **Shariah** – Islamic law
- **Fiqh** - the theory or philosophy of Islamic law, based on the teachings of the Quran and the traditions of the Prophet. Muhammad (SAW)
- **Religious Law** – Laws pertaining to religions
- **Monarchy** – A form of government with a monarch at the head
- **Moral responsibility** – How do people act morally and how do they morally choose
- **Alcohol**
- **Drugs**
- **Halal** – Something which is permissible
- **Haram** – Something which is impermissible

Key Questions

- How do Muslims make moral and legal decisions?
- What is the difference between religious law and law of the land?
- How does a person follow religious law as well as the law of the land?
- How do Muslims act as stewards by taking care of their own bodies?
- What is it important to live a healthy lifestyle?
- Why are some foods halal and some haram?
- What are Islamic teachings on alcohol and drugs?



The 4 Main Schools Of Fiqh

Hanafi:

The Imam of this school was called Abu Hanifah, Nu`man bin Thabit (may Allah have mercy upon him). He was of Persian origin. He was born in Kufa, Iraq, in the year 80 AH.

Maliki:

The Imam of this school is Malik bin Anas (may Allah have mercy upon him) who was born in 95 AH and passed away in 179 AH at the age of 86. He was blessed to have been born and pass away in the blessed city of Madinah. He was buried in Jannah al-Baqi

Shafi'i:

The Imam of this school is Muhammad bin Idris (may Allah have mercy upon him). He was born in Gazzah in the year 150AH. He died in Egypt in the year 204 AH. His lineage meets with that of the Prophet (peace be upon him) on the seventh level.

Hanbali:

The Imam of this school is Ahmad bin Muhammad bin Hanbal (may Allah have mercy upon him) who was born in 164 A.H and passed away in 241 A.H at the age of 77. The city of birth and death was Baghdad, Iraq

Key Word

Death

Key Questions

- What happens after death?
- What is the purpose of living in this world?
- How do religious believers mourn the dead, and what are the ritualistic aspects of the Abrahamic faiths in relation to death?

Death Rituals and Beliefs

Muslim Death

- Heaven
- Hell
- Judgement

Christian Death

- Heaven
- Hell
- Jesus
- Cremation

Jewish Death

- Washing
- Prayer shawl
- Purification of the body