

## Essential Doctrines of Christianity

### 1. The Deity of Christ

#### a. Jesus is God in the flesh

- i. Philippians 2:<sup>5</sup> *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,* <sup>6</sup> *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,* <sup>7</sup> *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.* <sup>8</sup> *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.* <sup>9</sup> *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,* <sup>10</sup> *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,* <sup>11</sup> *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- ii. John 1:<sup>1</sup> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And* <sup>14</sup> *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- iii. John 8:<sup>58</sup> *Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”* Compare this verse to Exodus 3:<sup>13</sup> *Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”* In the Greek. “I AM” is ‘ego emei’. Jesus was claiming the Divine Title by quoting Exodus 3:14
- iv. John 10:<sup>29</sup> *My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.* <sup>30</sup> *I and My Father are one.”*
- v. Hebrews 1:<sup>8</sup> *But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.* <sup>9</sup> *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”* <sup>10</sup> *And: “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.*

1 John 4:<sup>1</sup> *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* <sup>2</sup> *By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,* <sup>3</sup> *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

- b. This doctrine includes:
- i. The Trinity – There is one God who exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are eternal and of the same nature. Genesis 1:<sup>26</sup> *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; Matthew 3:<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*
  - ii. Monotheism – There is only one God, not multiple gods ruled by one. Isaiah 43:<sup>10</sup> *“You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.*

Mormons believe that there are many gods and that one day they themselves will become a god. Therefore, they are a cult, and not part of Christianity.

- iii. The Hypostatic Union – That Jesus is both God and Man. John 1:<sup>14</sup> *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*

## 2. Salvation

- a. By Grace Alone - Ephesians 2:<sup>8</sup> *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
- b. Humans cannot add to the Work accomplished on the Cross – Galatians 2:<sup>21</sup> *I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”*

## 3. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- a. 1 Corinthians 15:<sup>3</sup> *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...*
- b. 1 Corinthians 15:<sup>14</sup> *And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.*
- c. 1 Corinthians 15:<sup>17</sup> *And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!*
- d. Jesus predicted His resurrection in Mark 10:<sup>3</sup> *“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; <sup>34</sup> and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”*

Jehovah Witnesses and Muslims both deny the Resurrection of Jesus. This makes them a cult.

#### **4. Jesus is the only way to Salvation**

- a. John 14:<sup>6</sup> *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

It does not matter how much you believe an untruth/lie – it is still not the truth. The truth is not relative, it is an absolute.

#### **5. The Authority of Scripture**

- a. "God breathed" – 2 Timothy 3:<sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- b. Jesus confirmed the Old Testament – Luke 24:<sup>44</sup> *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."* This is how the Old Testament is divided – three parts.

There are many other truths in the Bible that we hold dear – The Virgin Birth; The miracles of Jesus, The Creation, The Flood, and many more; but these must be accepted as true based upon the Authority of Scripture.