



Judaism and Christianity

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Is there such a thing as a single `Christianity`?
Give reasons in support of your answer.

There is no such a thing as a single Christianity, as the different denominations in Christianity are in a conflict between each other. When talking about Christianity we need to discuss the denomination of which we are going to discuss, as they all have different doctrine of salvation. However, they all share the same Christian history and tradition of the Christian holidays. It is important to mention that the different denominations have their own versions of the Holy Bible. In my essay I will describe how and when the different Christian denominations have formed and what their believes for salvation is.

The historical books of Flavius Josephus give us an account about the life and crucifixion of Jesus Christ in around 33 – 35AD.

In the year 312AD the roman emperor Constantine the great receives a vision of a symbol in the sky where were written the letters of Jesus Christ and heard a voice that told him that he will concurs (Jenkins, 2002) (Jenkins, 2002)

Jenkins, P. (2002). *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Online: Oxford Scholarship.

and build his empire with the help of King Jesus. Constantine the Great becomes a Christian and starts to favour the Christians in his empire very much. He builds churches and Christians were, allowed to worship freely. Rome has become the centre of Christianity, and the Catholic Church. As the empire grew the emperor Constantine the Great decided to create a new Christian capital in the East in Constantinople. He builds churches also in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Constantinople and Rome. At some point, a conflict between the churches arose, questions about the nature of God and who is going to lead the church. A pastor from Alexandria Arius began preaching that Jesus was not God but a created being, so in 321AD a local council called Arius a heretic. In 325AD the emperor Constantine called the council of Nicea. The emperor Constantine was not a theologian all he wanted was to bring unity in the church. He invited over 1800 priests from across the empire but only 300 attended. There were three groups of bishops who attended: 1) The Arian group, who believed that the father and Jesus were of different substance. 2) The Orthodox group who believed that Jesus was the Son of God and existed eternally with the father. 3) The Eusebian group

who believed that the father and Jesus were fully God and Eternal. The result of the meeting was the Nicene Creed, a statement that survived until today it is:

“We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.” ¹

This is a definition of Christian believe that not every Christian accepts and is a cause for constant conflicts through the centuries. The council discussed the nature of Christ and identified it as fully eternal and fully human. In the year 1054AD an event called the Great Schism separated the Catholic and the Orthodox churches. Number of factors led to the separation. The Roman Catholic Church included in their creed that the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father and God the Son. The Orthodox Church also condemned the Roman Catholics about their Eucharist and the use of the Jewish enliven bread.

In the year 1517 during the renaissance Martin Luter who was a theologian, scientist and a monk, condemned the Roman Catholic Church for their corruption. With the invention of the printing press he translated and printed out the first Holy Bible with the idea that every person must read it. He nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Roman Catholic Church. Which led to a new Christian movement called Protestantism. Martin Lutter stated his statements: Sola Scriptura, Sola Fidei, Sola Gratia which means that salvation comes by faith in the word

of God and that only God's grace can save us. After these events during the political, cultural and scientific enlighten process in Italy John Calvin spread a new movement teaching new doctrine of salvation with only two sacraments - the baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Emanuel Kant (1724-1804) was a scientist and an astrologist, also member of the enlighten movement said that because of the work of Christ a scientific work is possible. In other words the scientific discoveries from the renaissance were built by the force of the religion. The world map, the heliocentric system of the Earth were discovered. He states that "religion is a cause system for reality".

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) developed summa theology of Christianity. He develops the natural law and introduced cosmological argument for the existence of God.

Rene Descartes (1596-1650) came up with the idea that if the people can reason, therefore there must be existence of God.

The natural laws says that what is wrong is wrong in all situation, and what is right is right in all situations. The natural law theory is influenced by Aristotle and his theory of

causality. Which means that behind every action there must be cause for it.

During and after the renaissance new Christian denominations were build, as the church of England, Mormons, prespetarians, Charismatic movements, Pentecostalism and they all have their own religious theology for salvation. Which points out to the arrival of Antichrist.

When we talk about single Christianity we need to look closer and identify the theological doctrine of the denomination. What are their religious practices and doctrine for salvation? Because Christians believe in their church, rather than the word of God itself.

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