

Christianity

A Western Religion?

For some centuries now, many have considered Christianity a western religion. This, they do because Christianity is prominent in the West and also because during the colonial era, western missionaries accompanied their political authorities into conquered territories. Some have even argued that the West used the Bible as a tool to pacify the hearts of the natives in order to occupy their land. And so, they formulated the phrase, “they handled the Bible in their left hand but had the gun in the right.”

But those who know the history and doctrine of Christianity will tell you it neither began in the West nor is it a western religion. The points below will help you know more about the truths on Christianity.

1. **Its Origin:** The Person who started the work of the gospel in Christianity is Jesus Christ. He was a Jew born in Israel. But that still does not mean it is an Israeli religion. No. Jesus Himself declared that He came directly from God in Heaven. The reason why He was born in Israel was because God had already began a long history for the salvation of mankind beginning with Abraham, through Moses, David and all the other prophets to prepare the way for the eventual coming of the one and only Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ. Jesus therefore came from Heaven to tell the Jews and the whole world how they can come to know God through the gospel He preaches. He announced, *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* John 8:12.

2. **Its Doctrine:** The doctrines of Christianity are not racial or political theories, or are they based for specific cultural identities. The teachings of Christ in the gospel are rather meant for everyone irrespective of their cultural identities.

The doctrine of Christianity is what we call The Gospel. The word gospel means **“Good News.”** This is the good news announcing God’s love to man. In John 3: 16, the gospel message reads, *“For God so loved the world (entirely) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* God in this invitation is saying something like this: “O sinful man, I am willing to forgive you so that you can escape My everlasting punishment in hell. But you have to come to Me through My Son, Jesus Christ.” Jesus again is made the sacrifice to take away sins when He died on the cross. That is why men must believe only in Him to be saved.

The gospel makes us understand that all other attempts in religion to reach God are futile since they are limited and human inspired. And that the only way to know and reach God is through Jesus Christ who Himself came from God. He never committed any sin and that is why He alone can lead humanity to God and His eternal kingdom.

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3. **Its Power:** The gospel of Jesus Christ has power that goes beyond moral rules and regulations, commandments and religious rituals. The Bible in Romans 1:16 says the gospel of Jesus is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. This means by believing in Jesus and the word of God in the Bible, one actually experiences his sins forgiven by God. This clears away doubt and guilt.

The greatest power of the gospel is its power of transformation. Those who become true Christians have the experience and testimony of a changed life. From corruption, crime, sexual immorality, addictions etc, to becoming ideal role models. Such people are thus reflecting the righteousness they have inherited from Christ after haven surrendered their sins, lives and hearts to Him.

Apart from granting an absolute assurance of salvation, the gospel demonstrates Christ's victory over the greatest enemy of humanity – death. After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, He came back to life, coming out of the grave physically three days after He was buried. Again He went up to heaven visibly in the presence of His disciples promising to come back and judge all the living and dead. Unlike all other prophets who died and remained in the grave, Jesus is alive and setting people free who call on His name. The death and resurrection of Jesus are historical facts which grant an absolute assurance of eternal life to His true followers.

The power of the gospel continually demonstrates Christ's victory over the works of darkness like sickness, curses, demonic oppressions etc. Only Jesus Christ has absolute power over all these and He wants everyone to share in the salvation and blessings of this victory.

Receiving the grace of God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing that can happen to you. To do so, you need to pray in sincerity asking God to forgive you and receiving Christ into your life as your personal Saviour in a payer like this:

Most gracious God, I come to you today in total repentance. I plead that you forgive all my sins and wash them away with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. I also accept and receive Jesus into my life to be my personal Lord and Saviour. Help me to live the rest of my life to please and serve You. Thank You for saving me as I have prayed through Your dear Son, Jesus. Amen.

If you have done this in sincerity, then know that God has forgiven you totally. Praise God, you are saved. What you need to do is talk to God daily in prayers, as well as obtain and study your Bible daily too. Also get acquainted with other committed born again Christians so that they can help you to grow in your new life. May God richly bless you.

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