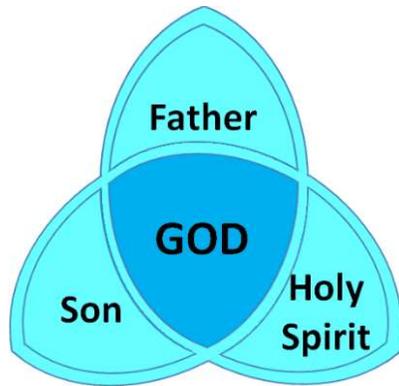


<b>Omnibenevolent</b>	The state of being all-loving and infinitely good.
<b>Omnipotent</b>	The all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God
<b>Trinity</b>	The three persons of God. The Father, The son and the holy Spirit
<b>Incarnation</b>	God becoming human in the form of Jesus
<b>Atonement</b>	The belief that Jesus; death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God
<b>Resurrection</b>	The belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.



**The Nicene Creed**

“We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth... We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the father... We believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.”

**The Trinity:** the oneness of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**God the Father** = Creator and almighty is prayed to by Christians because they believe he cares for them and is powerful.

**God the Son** = Jesus Christ as Lord is treated like a role model by Christians who try to follow his example.

**God the Holy Spirit** = Active in the world today and is believed to comfort and guide Christians.

“Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘you are my Son, whom I love...’” (Mark 1:10-11)

**Creation:** There are two accounts of the creation of the universe in Genesis (the first book of the Bible). Some Christians believe these are symbolic and some believe they are literally true.

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Day 1: Heavens, earth, light and dark  
 Day 2: Water and sky  
 Day 3: Land and plant life  
 Day 4: Sun, moon and stars  
 Day 5: Fish and birds  
 Day 6: Land animals and humans

Genesis 2:4 – 3:23

God creates Adam and places him in the Garden of Eden to look after it. He tells Adam not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. God then creates Eve from Adam’s rib. Eve takes some fruit from the tree and eats it then gives some to Adam. God then banishes them from the Garden of Eden.

The Word and the Spirit: The Bible says that Jesus (The Word) and the Holy Spirit were with God at the start of creation.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

**Incarnation:** God becomes a human being as Jesus.

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son” (Matthew 1:23)

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:14)

The Bible teaches that God the Son (Jesus) came into the world to live among people, show them what God

was like and enable them to have a relationship with him.

Christians celebrate the incarnation at Christmas by singing carols and remembering the story of the birth of Jesus.

Christians believe that as a human, Jesus (God) could understand humanity and its problems, and identify with their suffering

**The Last days of Jesus’ life**

The Last Supper and betrayal: Jesus and his disciples had a meal (bread and wine) together the evening before Jesus died. Jesus predicted his betrayal and death. Christians remember these events when they take part in the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

Arrest and Trial: Jesus and his disciples planned to spend the night in the garden of Gethsemane. Judas Iscariot brought an armed crowd to arrest Jesus in the middle of the night. The Sanhedrin (Jewish High Council) found Jesus guilty of blasphemy for claiming to be the Son of God. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, sentenced Jesus to death.

**Crucifixion:** Jesus was put to death by crucifixion, which means being nailed to a cross and left to die. The Bible says that Jesus cried out “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34).

**Resurrection:** The Bible teaches that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after he died. For Christians, it is important because it shows that humanity's sins are forgiven, there is life after death and God is real.

**Ascension:** The Bible teaches that after Jesus rose from the dead, he spent time teaching his disciples. He told them that he would soon be taken up to heaven but that they would not be left alone. The Holy Spirit would come into the world and help them spread the word of God. Christians call Jesus being taken up to heaven the ascension – this is celebrated on Ascension Sunday.

**Salvation:** Christians believe that everyone was created to have a relationship with God. Some Christians believe that because Adam and Eve sinned all humans are automatically sinful and need to be saved. Other Christians believe that humans are born without sin but will sin at some point in their lives. Sin is believed to be doing wrong by going against the law of God – The 10 commandments.

Christians believe that God sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive this sin and restore the relationship between humans and God. The Bible says that as well as following the 10 commandments people must also follow Jesus' teachings to achieve salvation.

**Atonement:** Christians believe that, because Jesus died to save humanity from sin, the relationship between God and humanity was restored (repaired). This is called atonement – at-one-ment – God and humans are 'at one' because of Jesus.

Some Christians see Jesus as taking the punishment instead of Christians. Other Christians see Jesus as the 'new Adam' as Jesus has restored the closeness with God that Adam lost through his disobedience. Finally, some Christians believe this is God's way of experiencing (participating) in the human experience so that humans can be like God.

Atonement is important to Christians because Christians believe that Jesus' death allows them to have eternal life. Christians believe they have a duty to live their lives by Jesus' example. Christians believe that their wrongdoings can be forgiven by God.

**Eschatology:** Christian beliefs about life after death.

The Bible teaches that all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life/life after death:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Many Christians believe in the immortality of the soul. This is the belief

that when we die our immortal soul leaves our physical body and either goes to be with God in heaven or without God in Hell. Some Christians believe that Heaven and Hell are physical places others believe that they are spiritual/nonphysical.

**Purgatory:** Some Catholics believe the dead go to purgatory to be purified of their sins before going to heaven.

**Judgement Day:** Some Christians believe that at the end of time God will raise the dead (resurrection) and at this point God will decide whether a person goes to heaven or hell.

Life after death is important to Christians because it gives them hope that if they live a good life they will be rewarded in the future.

#### **The Problem of Evil:**

**Omnipotence** – all-powerful

**Benevolence** – all-good/loving

**Omniscience** – All-knowing

**Omnipresence** – Everywhere

**Natural Evil** – Suffering caused by nature e.g. natural disasters. Suffering caused by humans e.g. murder.

If God is all-powerful and all-loving, it seems logical that God should prevent evil and suffering. Since evil and suffering do exist, some people have concluded that God does not exist.

#### **Responses to The Problem of Evil and Suffering:**

**Biblical Solutions:** The Bible teaches Christians that suffering is a part of life, that Christians should pray to God in times of suffering, that humans cannot understand why God does not always intervene when they think God will and that one day God will end all suffering.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

**Theoretical Solutions:** Some Christians believe that evil and suffering exists because God created humans to have freewill. Freewill means that humans have the freedom to act as they wish and sometimes this results in evil and suffering. Some Christians believe that suffering helps people to develop good characteristics.

**Practical Solutions:** Some Christians say that suffering allows them to develop qualities such as compassion and kindness. Some Christians say that suffering is a part of life but help is available. In addition some Christians say that they can help suffering by praying to God and doing charitable work