



A Teacher's Guide to Christian Students

Greetings

"Greetings and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." The Apostle Paul often opened his letters to the church in the New Testament with a greeting in the name of Jesus. Shalom, a Hebrew greeting is also frequently used as both a greeting and a blessing. Shalom means peace.

Christians in the USA

- * Christianity is ranked the largest religion in the world today.
- * An estimated 79.5% of the population of America consider themselves Christians.
- * American Christians are comprised from a number of different denominations including Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian and others.
- * There are over 246 million Christians in the United States of America.
- * Christians are comprised of all ethnicities and nationalities.
- * 32% of the world's population is considered to be Christian.
- * There are 2.18 billion Christians worldwide.



Christianity & Christians

Christianity: The term "Christian" is derived from the Koine Greek word Christ, a translation of the Biblical Hebrew term Messiah. The Christian faith is based in the gospel as presented in the Holy Bible, and includes the teaching that humans have hope for salvation through the message and work of Jesus Christ. In particular, his atoning death on the cross. Christianity is a way of life.

Christian: A Christian is one who believes that Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. According to the Bible, Jesus is the promised Messiah foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures. His Hebrew name is "Yeshua", which means "Salvation". He is the only begotten Son of God, God come in the flesh, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, who suffered, and was crucified for the sins of the world. He died and was buried, and on the third day, He rose again from the dead having the keys of hell and death. Soon afterward He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will soon return to judge both the living and the dead. A Christian is one that has professed faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

The Holy Bible: The Holy Bible is a book of scripture made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible means "The Books" in Koine Greek; it is comprised of 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament. The Bible is the Holy Scripture to Christians and is the foundation of their faith. The book contains prophecies, a history of God's people, and the birth, life, death, and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Holy Bible was written by prophets to teach God's commandments and laws to all people on Earth. Scriptural references are divided up into books, chapters and verses.

Core Christian Values

Christian values are based on God and the work of Jesus Christ. The most important Christian value is to just revere God more than anything, or anyone. A core Christian value is having God first in your life, acknowledging Him and His Word(Holy Scriptures) in your daily life. There are many values esteemed by Christians including: humility, giving, self-discipline, wholesomeness and forgiveness. Core Christian values can be expressed in short by this scripture, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." from I Corinthians 13:13 Christians endeavor to live their lives in a way that expresses their faith and hope in Jesus Christ by loving God, and others.

Seven Pillars of the Christian Faith

1. Christians believe in one God, manifesting Himself in three Persons as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; 1 Kg. 8:60; Matt. 28:19; Mark 12:29; John 14:26; 15:26; Acts 2:33; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3-14; 4:4-6; Jas. 2:19; 1 Pet. 1:2; 3:18; 1 John 5:7; Rev. 1:4-5).
2. Christians believe the Bible to be verbally inspired, the inerrant Word of God, and, when rightly interpreted by the Holy Spirit, to be the infallible rule of faith and practice (Psa. 45:1; Ezek. 1:3; Matt. 24:35; Luke 24:27; Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).
3. Christians believe in the creation and subsequent fall of man, with the result that he, without God, is in a state of total spiritual depravity, unable to attain to divine righteousness by means of his own wisdom and strength. Unregenerate man, with a beast nature, needs a Savior (Gen. 1-3; Rom. 3:23; 5:12-19; 6:23; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 2:1-3).
4. Christians believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be the only Savior of all men, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very (fully) God and very (fully) man. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures. He personally appeared in His new body to His disciples before ascending to His seat at the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens. Jesus' finished work (His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension) reversed the curse concerning the spirit, soul, and body of the first man Adam. He is the only Way to the Father, the only valid Door and entry into the realm of Spirit (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; John 10:1; 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 15:3-8; Gal. 3:13-14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:14-16; 8:1-6; 10:12-13).
5. Christians believe in personal regeneration, that one must be born again to see and enter the Kingdom of God. This initial salvation of sinners is by grace through faith in the perfect and all-sufficient finished work of Jesus Christ. The ground of this justification by faith is the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God (John 1:29; 3:1-8; 17:4; 19:30; Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9; Rev. 13:8).
6. Christians believe that this conversion experience should be followed with water baptism by immersion in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the circumcision of the heart. The old man is put to death and the new creation man arises to walk in newness of life. Blood, water (baptism), and Spirit constitute the three witnesses that initiate the New Covenant (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 2:28; 6:1-14; Col. 2:11-12; 1 John 5:8). *
7. Christians believe in observing often the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. This Eucharist, the Table of the Lord, is the ongoing celebration of the New Covenant (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-30).

*It should also be understood that slight practices, variances, exceptions, and additions to these beliefs can exist within certain faith groups that fall under the broad umbrella of Christianity.

Prayer and The Christian

Christian's view prayer as a duty to God. Prayer is communication with God. Prayers can be done quietly to oneself or out loud as is appropriate. Christian students may desire to pray before meals, sport's events, during times of crisis, and at significant celebratory events such as graduation.

The Lord's Prayer is a central prayer in Christianity. In the New Testament of the Christian Bible, it appears in two forms: in the Gospel of Matthew as part of the discourse in the Sermon on the Mount, and in the Gospel of Luke, which records Jesus being approached by one of his disciples with a request to teach them to pray.

**"Our Father which art in heaven,
 Hallowed be thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts,
 as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil:
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever." -- Amen.
 --- Matthew 6:9-13 - KJV**



US Protection of Religious Rights

Prayer, reading the Bible, religious celebrations as well as Christian fellowship and clothing are elements of the Christian faith. The First Amendment to The Constitution, which protects the free exercise of religion, protects such religious expressions as the activities and beliefs noted in this publication. Moreover, the Equal Access Act of 1984 (upheld by the Supreme Court in 1990) affirmed the right of student-initiated religious activities in public schools.

Love of Country

Christians believe that our freedoms come from God. Love of God is deeply rooted in the history of the United States and Love of Country is deeply rooted in the hearts of Christians. As stated in the unanimous Declaration of Independence of Congress on July 4, 1776, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Christians believe in duty to country. Those duties are summarized with scriptural reference as:

1) The obeying of laws

- a. We are to submit to the ordinances (laws) of the land (Romans 13: 1 -5, Titus 3:1)
- b. This is done for the Lord's sake, that we might silence foolish men. (1 Peter 2:13-16)

2) Do Good to others

- a. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Luke 6:31
- b. Christians are admonished in the Scripture to be ready for every good work. (Titus 3:1)

3) Paying of Taxes

- a. This was the point of Jesus in Matthew 22:17-21
- b. The apostle, Paul also taught Christians to pay taxes. (Romans 13:6-7)

4) Stewardship

- a. Christians believe that the earth is the Lord's and that stewardship of the earth has been entrusted by God to His people. (Ps. 24:1, I Chronicles 28:8)
- b. Christians are stewards of the word of God, and the work of the Lord. (Titus 1:7-9, I Corinthians 4:1)

Family Life/Sex Education

Family authority is established by God. Christians believe that God has given families a distinctive structure and that the family is a divine creation, not a social invention. Families do not exist because society was planned that way by social theorists. Families are not the remnants of an ancient idea that society functions best when organized into small groups. Christians believe that families were not formed for individual convenience or as a result of social evolution. According to the Holy Scriptures (Genesis 2:18-24), God created the family, and He did so for His own purposes. The family began before any government, church or other social organization ever existed. Christians believe that family is the first and most basic unit of all society.

Christians join their moral values with necessary instruction about health and sexuality. Christians place a high value on modesty, abstinence, and morality as it relates to the body, mind and spirit of a child/adolescent.

Christian parents wish to ground their children with spiritual truths reflecting the good nature of our God as well as what and how to think about sexuality. Therefore, close contact with local Christian leaders and parents is essential to encourage input from the Christian community. Class materials related to these subjects should be available for review and parents should have the option to remove their children from all or part of any teaching or program that would be considered contrary to the sound principles of Christianity.



The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments, also known as the Decalogue, are a set of biblical principles relating to ethics and worship, which play a fundamental role in Judaism and Christianity. The Ten Commandments are:

I am the Lord, your God.

Thou shall bring no false idols before me. Thou

shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

Do not take the name of the Lord in vain.

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Thou shall not murder.

Thou shall not commit adultery.

Thou shall not steal.

Thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

Thou shall not covet your neighbor's wife (or anything that belongs to your neighbor).

Greatest Commandment: Jesus was asked which of the ten commandments was the most important. Jesus answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all they soul and with all thy mind." and the second great commandment is "They shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:35-40

Curriculum Issues

Many Christians feel that their faith has been purposely marginalized and contradicted in textbooks and school programs. The rich history of Christianity in world and US History and science has been all but erased from textbooks. This has resulted in inaccurate representation of historical and scientific truths. Many

Christian students are subject to taunting, public ridicule and teasing from not only other students but teachers for their beliefs. School boards will want to review policies and programs in light of the Christian population in our public schools to ensure equal representation in textbooks and school programs.

Textbooks that contribute to the prejudice against the Christian faith, the republic of America, and American history are not suitable. Books that lack reliable

information are typically replete with mistakes about the history of Christianity and the foundation of America. Qualified Christian educators should participate in the textbook selection, selection process, particularly for history, science social studies and geography.

Christian Holidays

In the Christian faith, there are two key celebrations: Easter (and the days immediately preceding it) is the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus in (approximately) C.E. 30, and Christmas which is celebrated at the birth of Jesus, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy.

Easter is a Christian festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion at Calvary as described in the New Testament. Easter is preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week, and it contains the days of the Easter Triduum, including Maundy Thursday, commemorating Maundy and the Last Supper, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Easter is followed by a fifty-day period called Eastertide or the Easter Season, ending with Pentecost Sunday. The festival is referred to in English by a variety of different names including Easter Day, Easter Sunday, Resurrection Day and Resurrection Sunday.

Christmas or Christmas Day is an annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ, celebrated generally on December 25 as a religious and cultural holiday by billions of people around the world. A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it closes the Advent season and initiates the twelve days of Christmastide. Christmas is a civil holiday in many of the world's nations, is celebrated by an increasing number of non-Christians, and is an integral part of the Christmas and holiday season.

Thank you

Thank you for your time and continued help in uniting students of all ethnicities and religions.