

Essential Doctrines

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

- Know what you believe and why you believe it, and be able to explain it to others.
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Essential Doctrines:

1. Depravity of Man.
2. Christ’s sinlessness.
3. Deity of Christ.
4. Christ’s humanity.
5. God’s Unity & Trinity.
6. Necessity of God’s Grace.
7. Necessity of faith.
8. Christ’s atoning death.
9. Christ’s bodily resurrection.

Essential for salvation.

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10. Christ’s virgin birth.
 11. Christ’s bodily ascension.
 12. Christ’s present high priestly service.
 13. Christ’s second coming, final judgment and reign.
 14. The veracity of God’s Word.
 15. The doctrine of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 16. The doctrine of forgiveness.
 17. The doctrine of origins / creation.
 18. The doctrine of a literal heaven and a literal hell.

Essential for Christianity.

There are a couple of different ways to approach this subject of determining the essential doctrines of the faith:

1. Is to look at it from a historical point of view, what did the Apostles and early church view as critical or essential doctrines.
 2. The other is to look at it logically; what does it mean to be a Christian, what is required for salvation?
- Looking at it from either perspective you end up looking at the same list of teachings.

Various scriptures begin to fill in our list:

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

- This speaks of the deity of Christ, his incarnation (humanity), His resurrection, His proclamation and His ascension into heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 ³“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve.”

In this passage we have the essentials of the Gospel:

1. Christ died, substitutionally for our sins, because we're sinners.
2. That Christ was buried and rose again bodily – and was seen.
3. According to the scriptures: the Word of God is true.

Romans 10:9-10 ⁹“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- Here we see the doctrine of faith, grace, redemption, and salvation.

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- There are some different criteria that constitute whether a doctrine is “essential” as opposed to “non-essential”. (Examples: Rapture, baptism, adultery...).

1. Is belief in that doctrine necessary for salvation?
2. Is the doctrine necessary for salvation?
3. Is the doctrine necessary for Christianity to exist?

- There are doctrines that form the basis or foundation of Christianity, without which Christianity would not exist.
- There are doctrines that are needed for salvation, without which salvation would not be possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean that we have to believe in them to be saved.

Examples:

1. It is not necessary to believe in the virgin birth, Christ's bodily ascension into heaven, or to be saved.
 2. It is not necessary to believe in the depravity or the sin nature of man to be saved, only that we individually are sinners in need of a savior.
- There is much to be learned and understood about these orthodox (generally accepted) doctrines or teachings that will certainly come in due time, but not necessarily at the time of conversion, and not necessarily as a pre-requisite for salvation.

- Many of the doctrines we're going to talk about are essential for salvation to be possible in a broad sense, but not all are essential that we believe in them before we can be saved.
- The "essential doctrines" are needed in order to be consistent in our Christianity, but not all are necessary to believe to become a Christian.
- Sometimes there is a difference between what must be true and what must be believed."

Augustine is credited with saying that "*we can thank God for the heretics (false teachers), for without them the church would not have been forced to clarify what was resident in the original deposit of faith.*"

- Generally, a sign that authentic conversion has taken place is that when a professing believer is instructed in these doctrines, they embrace them.

Describing Peter preaching the Gospel:

Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly receive his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Acts 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity."

Calvary Chapel Susanville's statement of faith: just what we believe...

- Back of bulletin / web site: resources – PDF.

Calvary Distinctives: What makes us distinct from other churches or denominations.

- Copies for sale / web site: resources – PDF.

1st The essential doctrines that we must believe in order to be saved:

1. **Depravity of Man:** The sin, or sinful nature of man. All people are sinners by nature and choice and therefore are under condemnation.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one."

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 8:18 "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

Matthew 19:17 "... there is none good but One, that is, God:..."

- If we weren't all sinners then we wouldn't need to be saved. The bottom line is that we all need salvation.

2. **Christ's sinlessness:** He had to be sinless to offer Himself for our sins.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

1 Peter 2:21-22 ²¹For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²²who did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth."

Hebrews 4:14-15 ¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

3. **Deity of Christ:** If Jesus isn't God then there is no Christianity and no salvation.

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

John 1:1-2 ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made."

John 1:14 "And the Word was made 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."

1 John 1:1-3 ¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ²For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us; ³that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

1 John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are One."

Revelation 19:11-13 “¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. ¹³And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.”

John 8:58 “Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am.”

John 14:9 “Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, shew us the Father?”

Matthew 26:63-64 “⁶³But Jesus held His peace. And the high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. ⁶⁴Jesus saith unto him, thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

Colossians 2:9 “For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

Hebrews 1:1-2, 8 “¹God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;” – “⁸But unto the Son he saith, thy throne, O god, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.”

Jesus says:

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

Part 2: [Partial review](#):

- There are some different criteria that constitute whether a doctrine is “essential” as opposed to “non-essential”. (Examples: Rapture, baptism, adultery...)
 1. Is belief in that doctrine necessary for salvation?
 2. Is the doctrine necessary for salvation?
 3. Is the doctrine necessary for Christianity to exist?
- There are doctrines that form the basis or foundation of Christianity, without which Christianity would not exist.
- There are doctrines that are needed for salvation, without which salvation would not be possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean that we have to believe in or understand them to be saved.

[Examples](#):

1. The virgin birth is an essential of Christianity, without it there is no Christianity. It is not necessary to believe in the virgin birth or Christ's bodily ascension into heaven to be saved.
 2. It is not necessary to believe in the depravity or the sin nature of mankind to be saved, only that we individually are sinners in need of a savior.
 3. There is much to be learned and understood about these orthodox (generally accepted) doctrines or teachings that will certainly come in due time, but not necessarily at the time of conversion, and not necessarily as a pre-requisite for salvation.
 4. There are many doctrines that are essential for salvation to be possible in a broad sense, but not all are essential that we believe in them up front before we can be saved.
 5. The "essential doctrines" are needed in order to be consistent in our Christianity, but not all of them are necessarily pre-requisites to becoming a Christian.
- Sometimes there is a difference between what must be true and what must be believed."

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity."

1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

The Apostles Creed:

1. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.
2. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord.
3. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.
5. On the third day Jesus rose again from the dead.
6. Jesus ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
7. From thence Jesus shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Ghost.
9. I believe in the holy catholic church and the communion of the saints,
10. I believe in the forgiveness of sins:
11. The resurrection of the body,
12. And life everlasting. Amen.

We left off last week on #3 the deity of Jesus Christ, next is the #4 "Humanity of Christ".

4. **Christ's humanity:** "Son of man" - fully God, yet fully man. Jesus is presented to us throughout the Bible as a Person having two natures, one divine, the other human.

1 John 1:1-2 ¹"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ²For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;"

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:..."

John 1:14 "And the Word was made 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."

John 3:13 "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."

1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

John 19:5 "Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, behold the man!"

Hebrews 2:17-18 ¹⁷Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted."

Hebrews 5:7 "Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong consolations with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared;"

1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

5. **God's Unity & Trinity.** He is One God – mono-theism, yet existent in three persons. (Mormons, JW's, Muslims all deny the doctrine of the Trinity.)

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one LORD."

- The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, it is a Biblical concept revealed in the Bible.

- The doctrine of the “Trinity” is that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are One God, each fully God, existent in three distinct persons.
- The first hint of the Triune God is in the very first verse of the Bible.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

- The word translated “God” in this verse is “Elohim” – this is a uni-plural noun, a compound word: “El” which means God generally, add to this the suffix “im” which indicates the plurality of “God”
- While the use of this word does not translate directly to “trinity” it does indicate a plurality.

Genesis 1:2 “... And “the Spirit of God” moved upon the face of the waters.”

- Here we see a distinction between God the Father, and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, or the “ruach” – the breath of God moving upon the face of the waters.
- Having established the fact that the Father and the Holy Spirit were present at the beginning, what about Jesus?

John 1:1-3 “¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

Colossians 1:16-18, Revelation 4:11

Scriptures that reveal the Trinity of God:

1 John 5:7-8 “⁷For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

Isaiah 48:16-17 “¹⁶Come ye near unto Me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord God, and His Spirit, hath sent Me. ¹⁷Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel...”

Numbers 6:24-26 “²⁴The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: (The Father is the giver) ²⁵The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: (The Son, the revealer, full of grace and truth) ²⁶The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”
(The Holy Spirit, Comforter)

Matthew 3:16-17 “¹⁶And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: ¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever.”

John 15:26

2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”

Galatians 4:6 “And because ye are sons, God hath sent for the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, and justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

1 Peter 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His Divine Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

Hebrews 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Revelation 1:4-5 “⁴John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne; ⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead,...

6. **Necessity of God's Grace:** God's un-merited favor, His undeserved gift to us!

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Galatians 5:4 “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Galatians 2:21 “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”

Romans 5:1-2 “¹Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Ephesians 2:5 “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved;”

Titus 3:4-7 “⁴But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; ⁶which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; ⁷that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

7. **Necessity of faith:**

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Romans 10:9-10 “⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

8. **Christ's atoning substitutionary death:** OT examples, Abraham / Isaac, Passover lamb, sin offering.

John 1:29 “... behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

Romans 3:24-26 ²⁴“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

Hebrews 10:5-10 ⁵“Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: ⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. ⁷Then said I, lo, I come in the volume of the book it is written of Me, to do thy will, O God. ⁸Above when He said, sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; ⁹then said He, lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. ¹⁰By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

1 Peter 2:24 “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Romans 5:6 “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

John 19:30 “... it is finished...”

9. **Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead:**

Romans 10:9-10 ⁹“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 “³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸And last of all He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.”

1 Corinthians 15:19-20 “¹⁹If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. ²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.”

Remaining Apostles required future Apostles:

Acts 1:21-22 “²¹Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that He was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of His resurrection.”

- The focal point of Peter’s sermons was the resurrection of Jesus.

Romans 2:32 “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”

Romans 3:15 “And killed the Prince of life, whom god hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.”

- Paul uses the resurrection to demonstrate the deity of Jesus:

Romans 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

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- Essentials not required for salvation:

10. **Christ’s virgin birth:**

- The very first Messianic prophecy in the Bible refers to the virgin birth of Jesus.

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:...”

Matthew 1:20 “But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”

John 1:29 “... behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

- The virgin birth circumvents the sin nature that is present in all men. Being conceived by the Holy Spirit without sin means that there is no original sin in Jesus to be atoned for – then being the perfect sacrifice, spotless and without blemish – He is qualified to be the propitiation for our sin.

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Romans 5:18-19 “¹⁸Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

- The virgin birth is a specific term and is different than some other terms:
 1. Immaculate conception: The Roman Catholic church teaches their doctrine of the “immaculate conception” which falsely affirms that Mary herself was conceived and born without original sin, and thus was Christ sinless.
 2. Miraculous birth: Jesus’ conception was miraculous, but His birth was through the normal process

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Luke 2:33 “And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.”

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11. **Christ’s bodily ascension**: If Christ didn’t have the power to ascend to heaven, then He would not have the power to raise us up to heaven.

Acts 1:9-10 “⁹And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”

- The Apostles were all eye witnesses of His ascension, they all spoke of it later as a historical fact.

Romans 8:34 “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

Ephesians 4:8-10 “⁸Wherefore He saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.”

Luke 24:43 “And Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.”

- If Christ didn't have the power to ascend to heaven, then He would not have the power to raise us up to heaven.

John 14:1-4 “¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”

- Jesus' ascension into Heaven was part of His exaltation:

Philippians 2:9 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:”

12. **Christ's present high priestly service:**

- Jesus is our advocate before God the Father:

Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- There is no one else qualified to make intercession for us in heaven.

1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

- Another aspect to His present ministry is the preparation of our new home:

John 14:2 "... I go to prepare a place for you."

- Jesus' present ministry in Heaven allows for the present ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you."

13. **The doctrine of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit:**

John 7:39 "But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified."

John 14:16-17 "¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

1 Corinthians 6:19 "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

John 16:13-14 "¹³Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak and He will shew you things to come. ¹⁴He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you."

John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

14. **Christ's second coming, final judgment and reign:**

John 14:1-4 "¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Revelation 19:11-16 “¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. ¹³And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF kings, and LORD of Lords.”

2 Timothy 4:1 “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom.”

1 Peter 4:5 “Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Revelation 22:20 “... surely I come quickly....”

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15. **The veracity of God’s Word:** If any part of God’s Word is not true then none of it can be trusted and we have nothing to trust in. **(MAPS)**

Isaiah 40:7-8 “⁷The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

2 Peter 1:19-21 “¹⁹We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: ²⁰Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

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16. **The doctrine of forgiveness:** Is unique to Christianity.

1. to grant pardon for or remission of an offense or sin, , to absolve.
2. to cancel or remit a debt or obligation.
3. to cease to feel resentment against: *to forgive one's enemies.*

Exodus 34:6-7 “⁶And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord is God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, ...”

Ephesians 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Colossians 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 2:12 “I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His names sake.”

Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

Matthew 6:14-15 “¹⁴And if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

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17. **The doctrine of origins / creation:** Where do we come from? Where are we going? What is our purpose? Who determines that?

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

Colossians 1:16-17 “¹⁶For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.”

Revelation 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

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18. **The doctrine of a literal heaven and a literal hell:** If either one is not real then there is no point.

Hell:

Mark 9:42-44 “⁴²And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in Me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. ⁴³And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁴Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

Matthew 13:50 “And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Revelation 20:15 “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murders, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Heaven:

Luke 23:43 “And Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which god hath prepared for them that love Him.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “¹⁶For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”