









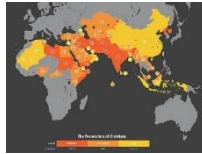



Christian Practices Overview

<p><u>Worship</u></p> 	<p><u>Prayer</u></p> 	<p><u>Baptism</u></p> 	<p><u>The Eucharist</u></p> 
<p>Worship involves showing religious devotion towards God. This can be done through prayers, singing, taking the Eucharist etc. Liturgical (Orthodox/Roman Catholic) is organised and repetitive. Involving traditional prayers such as the Lord's prayer, "Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name." Non-liturgical (Methodists/Baptists) is less structured as the order changes. Informal (Quakers) has no order. It is charismatic (spirit filled.)</p>	<p>Prayer involves communication with God. Examples include confession, adoration and praise. The Lord's Prayer is a type of traditional prayer involving confession "forgive us our sins" and adoration "hallowed be thy name." Prayer can include supplication (asking for things for oneself) "give us this day our daily bread" or intercession (asking on behalf of another person). It can be carried out individually at home or communally in mass.</p>	<p>Christians are baptised in order to follow the example of Jesus who was baptised by his cousin John in the River Jordan. "He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Some Christians (Roman Catholic) allow for infant and adult baptism. They see holy water as a cleansing symbol to wash away sin, but also as a method of joining the Church. The priest says, "I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Baptist Christians reject infant baptism and only hold adult baptism in a baptismal pool. Quakers reject baptism altogether.</p>	<p>Christians practice the Eucharist to remember Jesus' Last Supper when he said, "This is my body, take this in remembrance of me." They take bread and wine as symbols of his body and blood and remember his sacrifice on the cross. Roman Catholics and Orthodox celebrate the body and blood as transubstantiation (becoming literal body and blood,) whereas Protestants tend to see them as symbols (consubstantiation.) Quakers reject the practice altogether.</p>
<p><u>Ways of Practicing the Eucharist</u></p> 	<p><u>Pilgrimage</u></p> 	<p><u>Holy Week/Easter</u></p> 	<p><u>Christmas</u></p> 
<p>In Orthodox Christianity the Eucharist is taken on a spoon. In Roman Catholicism and Protestant Churches it is held in the hands and transferred to the mouth or directly given into the mouth. Orthodox and Roman Catholic celebrate it as literal/Protestants celebrate it as symbolic.</p>	<p>Iona is in Scotland. It is a place of peace where there is said to be a 'thin veil' between the spiritual and physical world. Lourdes is in France. Bernadette is said to have seen Mary (Jesus' mother) and there is spring water, believed by some to be holy water that cures ailments. This could happen if, "nothing is impossible with God."</p>	<p>Holy week refers to the last week in Jesus' life. The Bible states Jesus was resurrected from the dead so Christians eat eggs as a symbol of new life. They perform passion plays re-enacting Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and light a Paschal candle in a dark church to remember Jesus as a light leaving the dark tomb. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."</p>	<p>Christmas is celebrated to remember Jesus' incarnation (become human flesh.) Children perform nativity plays and gifts are given to remember that Jesus was born as a gift in the world - i.e. born to atone for sin. The Bible teaches that it was a miracle birth, "She was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit."</p>

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<u>Evangelism</u> 	<u>Missionaries and Church Growth</u> 	<u>Persecution and Responses</u> 	<u>Work Locally and Overseas (global charity work)</u> 
<p>Evangelism is the practice of spreading the Gospel through preaching and personal witness. Christians can do this by going door to door, preaching in a public place, e.g. Birmingham city centre or handing out Bibles and discussing Christian teachings. Christians can do this in their local community or abroad. Alpha course is an example of a UK organisation that practices evangelism in workplaces and prisons. Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me."</p>	<p>Some people specifically go abroad to evangelise and these people are known as missionaries. They try to spread the Gospel globally even in dangerous areas like North Korea in order to save souls from sin and encourage all people to believe that Jesus is their saviour/the Son of God. Examples include Kenneth Bae and Allen Chau. They travel because Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." (The Great Commission) So they see it as their duty to convert people to Christianity in order to save them from sin. Cfan (Christ for all Nations) is an example of an organisation that practice missionary work, particularly in Africa. Missionary work leads to a growth of Christianity in China, Africa and Asia, whereas numbers are declining in much of Europe.</p>	<p>Persecution involves unfair and harsh treatment. Christians might be persecuted by non-Christians for their beliefs in Jesus, e.g. Pastor Baber George was a persecuted Christian and sought asylum in Thailand after suffering persecution in Pakistan. He was helped by the Barnabas Fund who paid for his ticket to escape. But CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) also document cases, provide advice to persecuted people and lobby governments.) Also, during the Troubles in Northern Ireland Protestant persecuted Roman Catholics and vice versa. Corrymeela are an organisation that try to reconcile this division since the main aim of the Worldwide Church is to reconcile God with man and man with man. The Bible teaches, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."</p>	<p>Local work is in one's own country, e.g. Oasis Project (provide internet cafes), Street Pastors (deal with anti-social behaviour) and the Trussell Trust (hand out food boxes at Christmas.) "Faith if not accompanied by action is dead."</p> <p>Global work is overseas – global (all around the world.) Cafod (encourage Fairtrade,) Christian Aid provide emergency relief when natural disasters strike and Tearfund (provide emergency medical supplies in warzones.) They do this because Jesus taught the Parable of the Good Samaritan and to "love your neighbour as yourself."</p>