

THE ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIANITY

There are five essentials or basic elements of the Christian faith. Whether a person is a Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Episcopalian, Jew or Gentile, it doesn't matter. A person is Christian if they hold to the essentials of the faith. To be a Christian one believes that:

- 1) Salvation is attained by faith in Jesus Christ *alone*;
- 2) Jesus Christ was God incarnate, (making him fully human yet fully God), who died for our sins as the only suitable sacrifice to die in our place because he alone was without sin;
- 3) Jesus was raised from the dead—a bodily resurrection not just a spiritual resurrection - and He now lives to ever intercede for those who believe;
- 4) God is a unique Deity, triune in nature, (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit), who is the Creator of everything making Him supreme over all;
- 5) The Bible is the inspired and infallible written Word of God.

Beyond these first five essentials there are two other points known as “cardinals” which are not essential for our personal salvation, but are foundational truths to the Christian faith. They are: 1) That Jesus was born of a virgin and; 2) Jesus Christ is indeed coming again! These two points are highly important to the Believer, because they are two paramount objective proofs for the certainty of faith. However, there are many, many more factual evidences that support the Christian faith as the only way to be restored and related to God. The Christian faith rests on a firm foundation of objective facts that can be tested and verified. It is this objective evidence that makes it most reasonable to accept by faith, that which we can not see. ¹

The essentials, cardinals and objective truths of the faith must never be compromised by any doctrine. There are all sorts of doctrine, (interpretation of Scriptures), within Christendom which accounts for our various denominational differences. But so long as these interpretations do not conflict with the essentials, cardinals or refute objective truths, then they are within the Christian faith. Doctrine that violates (adds to, discounts or dismisses), the essentials, cardinals or objective truths, can not be considered Christian.

¹ Suggested Reading: [*Christianity on the Offense*](#) by Dan Story, Kregel Publications