

# The Essential Doctrines of the Christian Faith

St. Augustine declared, *“In the essentials we must have unity, in the non-essentials we have liberty, but in all things let there be charity (love)”*

## I. 12 essentials doctrines of the historic Christian faith

- a. A doctrine can be defined as the sum total of what the Bible teaches on a particular subject or theme
  - i. Twelve essential, or major, doctrines of the historic Christian faith which must be kept with conviction and without compromise:
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> - The Inspiration of Scripture
  - i. We believe that the Bible is the infallible, inspired, inerrant Word of God.
  - ii. **2 Timothy 3:16** declares, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”* cf. **2 Peter 1:21**
- c. 2<sup>nd</sup> - The Unity of God
  - i. We believe in the existence of only one God (Unity=Oneness).
  - ii. **Deuteronomy 6:4 (the Shema)** declares, *“Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one”* cf. **Isaiah 46:9**
- d. 3<sup>rd</sup> - The Tri-Unity of God
  - i. We believe in one God eternally existent in three distinct Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (i.e. the Trinity).
  - ii. **2 Corinthians 13:14** declares, *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God (Father), and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”* Cf. **Mathew 28:19**
- e. 4<sup>th</sup> - The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i. We believed that Jesus of Nazareth is fully God.
  - ii. **Titus 2:13** declares, *“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”*
- 5<sup>th</sup> - The Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - iii. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is fully Man.
  - iv. **John 1:14** declares, *“And the Word became 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”*
- f. 6<sup>th</sup> - The Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth was born from a virgin and did not have a biological, natural father.
  - ii. **Mathew 1:23** declares, *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which is translated, *“God with us.”*
  - iii. **1 John 3:5** declares, *“And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”*

- g. 7<sup>th</sup> - The Depravity of Mankind
  - i. We believe that God created all things perfect but humankind fell into sin, and thus, all human beings have subsequently been born into the world as sinners – separated and alienated from God.
  - ii. **Romans 3:23** declares, “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*”
  
- h. 8<sup>th</sup> - The Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth (the sinless Lamb of God) sacrificially and substitutionarily atoned for human sin at the cross of Calvary.
  - ii. **John 1:29** declares, “*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’*”
  
- i. 9<sup>th</sup> - The Bodily Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth historically, physically, and gloriously rose from the dead in the same body that was laid in the tomb.
  - ii. **1 Corinthians 15:20** declares, “*But Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*”
  
- j. 10<sup>th</sup> - The Necessity of Salvation by Grace through Faith
  - i. We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (saving faith in Christ implies a repentance from sin).
  - ii. **Ephesians 2:8-9** declares, “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*”
  
- k. 11<sup>th</sup> - The Bodily Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth physically ascended into heaven forty-days after His resurrection – where He is presently seated at the right hand of the Father interceding on behalf of His people.
  - ii. **1 Peter 3:21b-22** declares, “*...Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.*”
  
- l. 12<sup>th</sup> – The Bodily Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i. We believe in a literal, physical return of Jesus of Nazareth to the earth to end the dominion of sin and to establish righteousness and peace forever.
  - ii. **James 5:8** declares, “*You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand*”