

Christianity

Introduction Catholic church and Christian faith



Theme: Christianity
Subject: The Catholic church and Christian faith
Domain: Identity en culture
Virtual Experience: <https://edu.nl/tew7x>

The Catholic Church and the Christian Faith

Introduction

Christianity is the biggest religion in the world. It has three major branches: Protestantism, Eastern-Orthodox, and Roman-Catholicism. About half of all Christians around the world are Roman-Catholic. The head of the Roman-Catholics is the Pope.

Christians believe in one God, the Creator of heaven and earth. The God of the Christians is the same as the God of the Jews. The one God is a holy God. Because of mankind's sins, they are separated from God.

Christians believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. They believe that God wants nothing but to restore the relation with mankind. To do that, God sent Jesus Christ, His only Son, to earth. Jesus voluntarily died on the cross, for all people's sins. Christians believe that whoever accepts Jesus as their redeemer will be reunited with God, will be relieved of all sins, and shall receive eternal life.

The church is a place where Christians come together to honour God, to pray to Him, and to strengthen their faith. Jesus Christ is central to the faith, which is why it takes its name from Him.

The Bible?

Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God. The word Bible comes from Greek: *biblia* and means *books*. It is the holy book of the Christians. Central to the bible is the trinity between God the Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

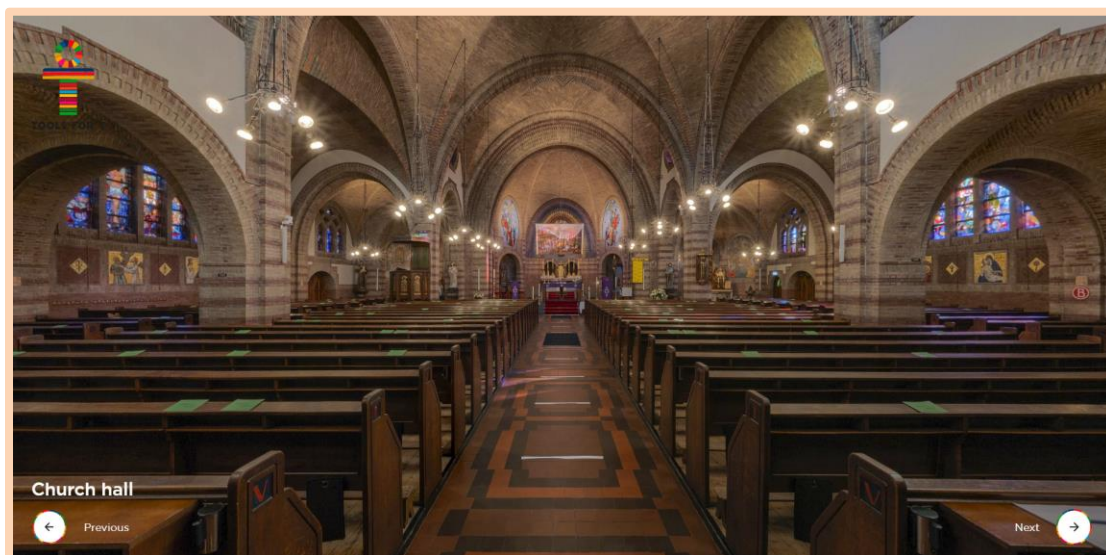
The Bible has two parts, the Old and the New Testament. This means 'the old and new bond'. Central theme is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the core of the new bond in the Bible. The book is made up of 66 Bible books (chapters), 39 in the Old Testament, and 27 in the New Testament. Christians believe that the Bible was written by humans, but inspired by God. Every word, from back to back, is sacred.

Virtual visit to the Catholic Church

Here's your chance to virtually visit a Catholic Church. Experience the Virtual Tour by clicking the following link: <https://edu.nl/tew7x> or by scanning the QR code.



Do you have VR goggles? Then open this link in your goggle browser, and experience the tour as if you're really there!



Did you know?

The word *gospel* stems from Old English *gōdspel*, combining *gōd* (good) and *spel* (from *spell*, meaning story, news). This refers to the good message from Jesus Christ.

Central Message

Right at the start of His gospel, Mark summarises Jesus's message in his own words: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15)

Christians believe the message from Jesus means you'll get a new life. Even here on earth. The Kingdom of God is a new quality of life for everyone who opens their life to the Spirit of God. Christians believe that those who want to follow Jesus, will discover that their relationships change. They find inner peace, and experience a new relationship with God.

In Christianity, Jesus is the central figure. He speaks about God like how a child speaks about their father or mother. He encourages His disciples, His pupils who are close to Him, to do the same. Just as confidential and intimate.

The Christian God is great and holy, but at the same time always nearby, approachable and intimate. This is different from other world religions.

Did you know?

When people start believing in Jesus, they often choose to be baptised. This literally means 'submerge'. In the Bible, people are being dipped in water to wash away all sins and cleanse the body and soul. The baptised is now officially a Christian.

Conclusion

Christianity used to have a stronghold in many countries, often referred to as 'God-fearing Nations,' where societies were built on Judeo-Christian principles. For instance, in the 1960s, over 80% of the population in such nations were members of a church community.

Today, many of these countries have seen a shift, with Christianity and church attendance becoming less common. Numerous church buildings have been forced to close their doors permanently.

Conversely, in the past, many people attended church out of habit or social obligation. In contemporary times, choosing a religion such as Christianity has become a more conscious, individual decision, reflecting personal beliefs rather than societal pressures.

Questions?

1. What are the three major branches of Christianity, and which one has the most followers worldwide?
2. Why do Christians believe Jesus Christ is central to their faith, and what is the significance of His death on the cross?
3. How is the Bible structured, and what is the significance of the Old and New Testaments?

Task

Read the Sermon on the Mount by Jesus Christ (Matthew 5-7 or go to <https://edu.nl/qcgwf>). Create a photo collage with text that captures the essence of its content. You can use images that represent the themes and teachings of the sermon, and overlay key verses or summary phrases to highlight its core messages. Feel free to use Artificial Intelligence tools to enhance your collage.

