



What Is Essential Christian D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E? (5)

1 Timothy 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching (“*didaskalia*” doctrine); persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

Deity of Christ

Original Sin

Canon

TRINITY

Resurrection

Incarnation

New creation

Eschatology

Trinity. Though the word “**Trinity**” is found nowhere in the Bible, it aptly codifies the essential biblical truths that

(1) there is only one God ([Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [Isaiah 43:10](#));

(2) the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God ([1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [Hebrews 1:8](#); [Acts 5:3-4](#)); and

(3) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are eternally distinct ([Matthew 28:19](#); [John 15:26](#); [John 17:1-26](#)).

It is important to note that when Trinitarians speak of one God, they are referring to the nature or essence of God. Moreover, when they speak of persons they are referring to personal self-distinctions within the Godhead. Put another way, Trinitarians believe in **one *What* and three *Who*'s**.

Matthew 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶“After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,

¹⁷and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

What Is Essential Christian D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E? (6)

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Resurrection. All four canonical gospels record the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The immutable fact of Jesus' resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith, because it not only vindicates Jesus' claims to deity but also ensures the future bodily resurrection unto eternal life of all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and proclaim Him as Lord ([1 Corinthians 15](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:13–18](#)).

The historical reality of the resurrection can be demonstrated through the fatal torment of Jesus on the cross; the empty tomb—early Christianity could not have survived an identifiable tomb containing the corpse of Christ; the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus; and the transformation of believers throughout the ages whose lives have been radically altered upon experiencing the resurrected Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NASB)

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;
⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;
⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

What Is Essential Christian D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E? (7)

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Incarnation. The doctrine of the Incarnation is aptly summed up in the words of the apostle John:

John 1:1 (NASB)

¹“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The clear testimony of Scripture is that, in the incarnation, Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man; that is, He existed as the perfect unity in one person of a divine and a human nature ([John 1](#); [Colossians 1](#)).

As *Theanthropos* (“God–Man”), the spotless “Lamb of God” ([John 1:29](#)) lived a perfectly sinless human life and died a sinner’s death to sufficiently atone, once for all, for the sins of humanity ([Romans 5:1–21](#); [Hebrews 10:11–18](#)).

Colossians 2:9 (NASB)

⁹“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

Philippians 2:5-8 (NASB)

⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.