



What are some of the distinctive features of Christianity?

Many of these distinctive features may be shared by some other religions. Distinctive features do not necessarily make Christianity unique. However, are there distinctive features or combinations of distinctive features, that do make Christianity unique?

(Note: It is important not to confuse religious beliefs with a moral code. Almost all religions endorse some sort of moral code but religion involves much more than morality. Religion involves having a perspective on the source, meaning and purpose of life that shapes how life is valued.)

Christianity is trans-cultural. It is not tied to one geographical place, one culture, one race, one language or to one style of living. Christianity is also multi-cultural. It does not value one culture, race or social group within a society over other ones.

What are some examples of the distinctives that arise from this trans-cultural or multi-cultural character of Christianity? (Some of these may seem incidental but they are not unimportant.)

- a) There is no place on earth which is essential or sacred for Christianity. (Historically Christians may value the "Holy Land" but they are not bonded to it as the Jews are to Jerusalem or the Muslims to Mecca.)
- b) There is no single language with which Christianity is inseparably linked. There is no uniform or universal language for use in Christian worship. It has long been an objective of Christianity to translate the Bible into the languages of the world.
- c) There is no universal form or even style of worship within Christianity.
- d) Christianity does not impose any form of dress or diet on its members.
- e) Christianity does not imply any specific ancestral or ethnic descent.
- f) Christianity is not associated with a specific social or economic status in society nor does it confer any such status on its adherents.
- g) Christianity is geographically very widely distributed in the world.