



The most distinctive feature of Christianity is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is so central to the faith that we profess that this faith has come to be known as Christianity since the first generation in which it was proclaimed. Paul tell us in Acts 11:26 that it was in the city of Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians. The name has stuck and has become the common name for the faith throughout the world.

Jesus did model and teach a religious and moral code but he also taught that it was not as a consequence of keeping this moral code that his followers were intended to find the new life that he offered. Instead, Jesus presented himself as the Messiah, the one promised by the Jewish prophets, and he proclaimed that he had come into the world as God incarnate. He declared that it was to be through his death and resurrection that redemption was to be found. While Jesus commended a moral code it was not through the keeping of that moral code but rather through being identified with him that believers would be redeemed. This was indeed a distinctive feature of Christianity.

In essence, Christianity was not a religion that required the believer to do or accomplish something for themselves but rather one that proclaimed that the believer needed to accept that it was what God had done and was doing on his or her behalf that really mattered.

The character and accomplishments of Jesus Christ are what are central to the Christian faith.

The Christian faith is based on divine initiatives rather than on human achievements.

This is so completely different from the normal human expectations or perceptions that it is sometimes difficult for people to grasp this truth. People often tend to feel that they have to accomplish something on their own behalf in order to earn favour with God. Christianity is about trusting that what God has done in Jesus Christ is the way to forgiveness.

Moral conduct is not unimportant but it is an act of thanksgiving for what God has done and not as a means of winning acceptance from God.

In Christianity all of this is centered in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.