

2.1.1 Christianity

This chapter gives a general overview of Christianity. It aims to explore the different branches of the religion. Christianity (from the Greek word 'Χριστός', 'Christ') is a monotheistic religion centred on the life and teachings of Jesus, as presented in the New Testament. Followers of Christianity, known as Christians, believe that Jesus is the son of God and the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible (the part of the scripture that is common to Christianity and Judaism). The majority of orthodox Christian theology claims that Jesus suffered, died, and was resurrected to give humans access to heaven. They further maintain that Jesus ascended into heaven, and most Christian denominations teach that Jesus will return to judge all humans, living and dead, and grant immortality to his followers. He is considered the model of a virtuous life, and both the revealer and the physical incarnation of God. Christians call the message of Jesus Christ the Gospel ('good news'), and refer to the earliest written accounts of his ministry as gospels. Like Judaism and Islam, Christianity is classified as an Abrahamic religion (see also Judeo-Christian). Christianity began as a Jewish sect in the eastern Mediterranean and quickly grew in size and influence over a few decades; by the 4th century, it had become the dominant religion within the Roman Empire. During the Middle Ages, most of the remainder of Europe was Christianised, with Christians also being a (sometimes large) religious minority in the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of India. Following the AOD, through missionary work and colonisation, Christianity spread to the Americas and the rest of the world. As of the early 21st century, Christianity has between 1.5 billion and 2.1 billion, representing about a quarter to a third of the world's population and is the world's largest religion. In addition, Christianity is the state religion of several countries (Russell et al.).

2.1.2 Three main Christian branches

In Christian history, there are three main schools of thought. The first is the Orthodox Church, which is separate from the Catholic Church, and the Protestant revolution, led by Martin Luther and Jean Chauvin, is another (ibid.)

2.1.2.1 Catholic Church

'Catholic' is an adjective derived from the Greek adjective 'καθολικός', meaning 'universal'. In the context of Christian ecclesiology, Catholicism has a rich history and the term has several usages. For Roman Catholics, the term 'Catholic Church' refers to the Church in full communion with the Bishop of Rome, including both the Western Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Churches. Protestants sometimes use the term 'Catholic Church' to refer to

批注 [SW1]: The following paragraph is too long. Is there...

删除的内容: In t

删除的内容: , I... will... gives a general overview of

批注 [SW3]: Although using 'the researcher' does avoid

删除的内容: "..."

批注 [SW4]: Single quotation marks are more appropri

删除的内容: "

批注 [SW5]: Use British English.

删除的内容: c

批注 [SW6]: This is a better word to use here.

删除的内容: Adherents

删除的内容: S

批注 [SW7]: Be careful of double spaces.

删除的内容:

删除的内容: ,

删除的内容: open heaven to

批注 [SW8]: Never start a sentence with 'and'.

删除的内容: A

批注 [SW9]: Avoid contractions in academic essays.

删除的内容: '

批注 [SW10]: Would 'messenger' be a better word to u

删除的内容: "...ood news"...), and hence

批注 [SW11]: These brackets are in SimSun font. You

删除的内容: The

删除的内容: religion... began as a Jewish religious

删除的内容: ... quickly grew in size and influence over

带格式的: 上标

批注 [SW13]: Citation needed.

删除的内容: z

批注 [SW14]: Avoid using SimSun font for punctuation.

删除的内容: ,

批注 [SW15]: What does this stand for? You must expl

删除的内容: z

带格式的: 上标

批注 [SW16]: 1.5 billion and 2.1 billion what? You need

删除的内容: '

批注 [SW17]: Citation needed.

删除的内容: '

删除的内容: .

批注 [SW18]: You must include the year of publication

批注 [SW19]: Et al. is always followed by a full stop

批注 [SW20]: Here, you have put your citation after th

批注 [SW21]: This title is underlined. None of your oth

批注 [SW22]: This is an incorrect use of tense.

批注 [SW23]: This is better phrasing.

删除的内容: were

删除的内容: disunities... The first one ...s the Orthodox

批注 [SW24]: Is this what you mean?

批注 [SW25]: Ibid. is always followed by a full stop bec

批注 [SW26]: You leave a space above this title. You do

the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ across the world, and across the ages. Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and some Methodist followers believe that their churches are Catholic in the sense that they are in continuity with the original Catholic (universal) Church founded by the apostles. In 'Catholic Christendom' (including the Anglican Communion), bishops are considered the highest order of ministers within the Christian Church, and are symbols of unity in communion with the whole church and one another. Catholicity is considered one of the Four Marks of the Church, the others being unity, sanctity and apostolicity, according to the Nicene Creed: 'I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.' (Catholic, Wikipedia).

2.1.2.2 Eastern Orthodox Church

The Eastern Orthodox Church is the second largest single Christian communion in the world with an estimated 225 million members worldwide. It is considered by its followers, to be the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church established by Jesus Christ and his Apostles many years ago. The Church is composed of numerous self-governing ecclesial bodies, each geographically and nationally distinct but theologically and sacramentally unified. Each self-governing (or autocephalous) body is led by a Synod of independent bishops whose duty is to preserve and teach the Apostolic and patristic traditions and related Church practices. All Orthodox bishops trace their lineage back to one of the twelve Apostles through the process of Apostolic Succession (Griffith, n.d.).

2.1.2.4 Protestant Church

Protestantism is a movement within Christianity that originated in the 16th-century Protestant Reformation. It is considered to be one of the three principal traditions within Christianity, together with Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

Protestantism is associated with the belief that the Bible (rather than church traditions or ecclesiastical interpretations of the Bible) is the ultimate source of authority for Christians. Another salient feature of Protestant theology is its doctrine that salvation comes through faith alone, by the grace of God.

Protestantism has both conservative and liberal theological strands within it. Its style of public worship tends to be simpler and less elaborate than that of Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christians, sometimes radically so, although there are exceptions to this tendency.

Research reveals that the denominations within Protestantism include the Lutheran, Methodist and Baptist churches.

批注 [SW33]: Be careful not to capitalise terms which should not be capitalised.

批注 [SW34]: Citation needed.

删除的内容: B

删除的内容: ,

删除的内容: hold...that their churches are c...atholic in the sense that they are in continuity with the original c

批注 [SW35]: Remember to keep your capitalisation consistent.

删除的内容: c...hurch founded by the apostles. In "...atholic Christendom"

批注 [SW36]: This is a better word to use here.

删除的内容: as shepherds...of unity in communion with

批注 [SW37]: In most cases, numbers ten or under sho

删除的内容: ,

删除的内容: ,

批注 [SW38]: Should these terms be capitalised?

批注 [SW39]: In British English, single quotation marks

批注 [SW40]: Wikipedia is not a very reliable source to

删除的内容: "

删除的内容: "

批注 [SW41]: This paragraph is in a different font. Mak

批注 [SW42]: Citation needed.

删除的内容: adherents

批注 [SW43]: How many years ago? This is a vague

批注 [SW44]: This is a better word to use here.

批注 [SW45]: Does this have to be capitalised or shoul

删除的内容: shepherded

删除的内容: etc

批注 [SW47]: Does this need to be capitalised or shoul

批注 [SW48]: Always use 'n.d.' instead of 'no date'.

删除的内容:(Griffith, n.d.no date

批注 [SW49]: This title should be 2.1.2.3, not 2.1.2.4. M

带格式的: 上标

删除的内容: sixteenth

批注 [SW50]: This is a better word to use here.

删除的内容: final

批注 [SW51]: Changing 'is' to 'tends to be' means that

删除的内容: is

批注 [SW52]: it is too vague to just say 'research'. You

批注 [SW53]: This is unnecessary.

删除的内容: examples of

删除的内容: ,