

1. What is the definition of Christian love?

That is a difficult question to answer because it requires containing something infinite in finite words, but my best effort at defining Christian love is that it is to choose the ultimate welfare of the other regardless of the cost to myself.

2. How is this fundamental to Christian belief?

The Bible says that God has loved us with an ever-lasting love. Everlasting is eternal in both directions, into eternity past and into eternity future. So an everlasting love loved me before I existed, before I had done anything, before there was anything else in this world. And an everlasting love will love me no matter what I do, or what I am like, or no matter what else will arise with history or beyond in eternity. God has loved us with an everlasting love, therefore love is eternal, and I must understand it as an eternal thing.

3. What is the nature of God?

The Bible tells us that God is eternal. He is self-existing. He depends upon nothing. He needs nothing. He is perfect, holy, righteous, and just. There are many other attributes of God set out in the Bible. But the Bible also says, "God is love." This is not the same as saying "love is God." That would mean I decide what love is and then I make that my God. No, "God is love." That means I only know love by who God is, how he acts, and being in relationship with him. God is love, all else finds its definition and its experiences from relationship to him.

4. How do you resolve the misunderstanding that Christians worship three gods?

I have heard people object to Christianity, saying that Christians worship three gods because they believe in trinity. This is not true. That is something someone may say about Christianity, but it is not something that Christianity itself says. We believe that God is one. The Bible says this again and again. There is only one God. The Bible tells us that this one perfect and infinite God exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Someone says, "Well there, that is a logical contradiction. That is impossible." I would say it is not a logical contradiction. If Christianity said there is one person who exists as three persons, that would be a logical contradiction. We know what a person is and we know that a person cannot be three persons. But that is not what Christianity says. Christianity says there is one God, one divine being, who is infinitely perfect, and exists eternally in three persons. We know what a person is and that they cannot exist in three persons. We do not fully know what a divine being is, or what a God is. We only know what he has revealed of himself, and he has revealed much. He has revealed that he is one God who eternally exists in three persons. This is not a logical contradiction. It is beyond our understanding, but it is not a logical contradiction.

5. What role does love play in all of this?

As I have mentioned, the Bible says, "God is love." God being perfect, infinite, and eternal means that love is perfect, infinite, and eternal. It comes before all created things. It predates everything else that is. Love requires an object for it to be love. Remember, love is to choose the ultimate welfare of the others at whatever cost it may come to you. Love has to have an object. So if love predates everything that exists before anything existed, what was the object of God's love? The Bible tells us that God the Father eternally loves the God Son, and God the Son eternally loves the God the Father, and the God the Father and the Son eternally love the God the Spirit. And so within this complex of relationships, there was the eternal perfection of love. This reminds us that love is not a created thing. Love is not a "plan B" to try to undo all the evil

and pain in the world. It is indeed an eternal thing, something in the very nature of God himself. The object and goal from the beginning was to share his love with the created world, especially human beings. So to love, to be loved is to be invited into the very fellowship of God within His trinity and to share in the love that began before all else. Such love had no beginning and existed before everything began.

6. Why was life created?

God created life as an act of his love and to bring forth an object for his love. All the world was to be filled with his love, but especially he chose out the human race, those made in his image. He made us to love and be loved in fellowship with him and with one another

7. What role does love play in all of this?

Jesus taught us that this is what God requires of his people, to love the lord God with all your heart with all your soul with all your mind and with all your strength. The second commandment is like the first, to love your neighbour as yourself. This is the goal of God's creation. This is the goal of his redemption, that we may live in love with him and through him, love with one other

8. Why do we suffer?

We suffer because there is another power at work in the world. That power is evil. That power hates love. So we are saying that we suffer because of evil. We do not suffer because there is a philosophical category called evil. We suffer because there is a most powerful, but limited and exceedingly evil being in this world. God is love, the devil, Satan, is hate. He hates all that is of God, all that God does, and all that God makes the object of his love. Satan's goal is to spread hate, to do exactly the opposite of what God designed for the world—to give us life through his love. Satan wants to bring death through his hate

9. How does love solve this problem?

The Bible is quite clear. "For God so loved this world that he gave his one and only son that whoever would believe in him should not perish but have ever lasting life."

10. Why do we need the Bible?

God is infinite and we are finite. We could not know God unless he revealed himself to us. The Bible is God's written revelation of himself to us. The Bible itself says it is a light to our path and a lamp to our feet. Without it we would stumble through this world in spiritual darkness, we would not know his love, we would not know his plan, we would not know his promises, and we would not know his hope.

11. How are Jesus and Bible are different in Christianity?

The bible calls itself the word of God. It also calls Jesus the word of God. The Bible is the written word of God. Jesus is the living word of God. The Bible was given to us so that we could read of the living word of God, Jesus, and would be guided into relationship with him. We were given the bible not to make our brain full or our minds smarter, but that we might experience God's love in relationship with him through Jesus Christ.

12. How is it possible for Jesus to be fully human and fully God?

Explaining how that is be possible is beyond human words and is beyond finite mind like mine, or any other human being's understanding. But if we are asking why Jesus had to be fully God

and fully man, the Bible answers that. The bible tells us that we have sinned against God. He is an infinite, holy, perfect being. So our wrongs against him are infinite. He is eternal, so our wrongs are eternal. They have consequences that last forever. We come under his judgment justly because of sin. But it would take us forever and ever, and we still would never have paid the infinite and eternal debt we owe God. But God sent his own Son into the world as fully human so that he could stand in the place of the human race and bear the sins that I have committed, that we have committed. He could justly stand in our place being fully human. But being fully God he could take the infinite and eternal debt we owe and he could satisfy it. He could take the judgement due to us forever and in a moment on the cross he could remove it from us forever so that it would never come upon us again. Jesus is fully God and fully man because in no other way could there be the hope of redemption with God

13. What does this say about love?

Remember our definition of love at the beginning, love is to choose the ultimate welfare of others regardless of the cost of oneself. Jesus taught that "Greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life for his friends." Jesus, in love, sought his friends ultimate welfare at the cost of his own life. The Bible is quite clear, "In this we know love ..." In other words, we do not know love in any other way than this." "... that God sent his Son into this world to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." This is seeking our ultimate welfare—forgiveness of sins, restoration to relationship with God, the promises of heaven—at his highest cost, his physical death, and of course his resurrection from the dead.

14. Why is it a problem to forget the experience and focus so much on the text?

The bible was given to us as written word of God so that we may have relationship with the living word of God, Jesus. That we might experience his love. But it is possible to become so fascinated with the text of the bible that we simply become experts in information, we just learn the words, but miss the experience of God's love. This is not God's plan at all. We only know of God's love through Jesus through the written words in the Bible. But his goal all along was that it would be more than information taken into our brains, but it would become a living experience in the depth of our souls. This is why the one who breathes out the Scripture through human authors, the Holy Spirit, is given to the child of God. The Bible says, "God poured out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit whom he has given to us." The written word of God is to guide us to the living word of God, who through the Holy Spirit makes the love of God real in us and through us.

15. Has the Bible changed and does it have internal contradictions?

The Bible has not changed. No, the Bible does not have internal contradictions. These are often brought up by those who would rather not believe what the Bible says. The facts are Bible, the New Testament in particular, is the most highly attested and accurate text of ancient history. The facts simply bear this out and can be found far and wide. But let me just offer this--We have approximately 25,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament. 25,000! The next closest document of antiquity is Homer's Iliad, of which we have 643 fragments of manuscripts. The nearest of those manuscripts to the original is some 2,000 years away from its authorship. The nearest fragment of the New Testament we have to its origin is within 50 or 60 years. Of all those 25,000 manuscripts they are said to be 85% in agreement and when they are put together into the three most commonly trusted total Greek manuscripts, we find that they agree at 98 to 99% of the text, perfectly and completely. The other percentage or two is filled with simple little

things like maybe there is a dash missing over one letter or some small word that does not change the meaning of the text at all. So no, the text of the bible has not been changed. It has been miraculously preserved and it is to be trusted,

16. How are people to live together with all the differences between them?

Love! This is what God designs for us, that the love he has shared perfectly with himself for all of eternity would in time and space be poured out into our hearts and through our hearts toward one another so that we are always actively seeking the ultimate welfare of the other person regardless of the cost of us. If this is multiplied in life after life, and we relate to one another in this way, then we would find great peace and love and be able to dwell together in harmony

17. What happens to a person who rejects Christianity?

The Bible says, "God holds in his hand the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind." God is life. All life came from God. To choose to separate from God is of necessity to choose death. Death is spiritual, and the moment we turn from God, we die spiritually. Eventually we die physically. And ultimately, if we leave this life without being reconciled to God, we die eternally. This is not God's design at all. His design is that we live in fellowship with him and with one another. He desires that we receive the ongoing gift of life and love from Him so that our lives can have meaning and that his love can be spread from one person to others.