

Christian Life Foundation Course

Christian Life Foundations 1 – Fundamental Beliefs

WARNING – Context, context, context. 20-20 vision. Exegesis NOT eisegesis. This lesson is full of eisegetical references. Beware!

Why are we here...

on Earth?

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 – Hear O’ Israel...

Matthew 22:37-40 – Greatest commandment

Deuteronomy 10:12 – Derivation of greatest commandment

Ecclesiastes 12:13 – Man’s all

Hosea 6:6 – love not sacrifice; knowledge of God not offerings

Micah 6:8 – do justice, love mercy, walk humbly

this evening?

Matthew 28:18-20 – Gotta be a disciple to make one. We speak of what we know.

Proverbs 27:17 – We sharpen each other. Lone Ranger Christians at best ineffective evangelists. Easily drawn aside (Parable of the Seed – seed sown among thorns)

James 4:8 – Draw near to God...

1 Peter 3:15 – Be ready to give an answer for the hope within us.

“I’ve got mine” is never the right answer. Shows lack of love and compassion.

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Fundamental beliefs

Inerrancy of God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All scripture is God-breathed...

2 Peter 1:19-21 – Beware of Gnosticism

Clearly Jesus Himself (the Word of God – c.f. John 1:1 and Revelation 19:13) held scripture in highest regard

Luke 4 – Temptation in the wilderness – all of Jesus' responses quote scripture

Matthew 5:17-18 – Do not think that I come to abolish the law...

BEWARE the trap of Schmueel – We worship the God who gives us His Word, not the Word itself.

The Biblical canon is complete and sufficient

NOT “made up” at Council of Nicea (325 AD) by church leaders to dominate illiterate masses

Dead Sea Scrolls (c.a. 150 BC) prove this

Thousands of New Testament fragments pre-date Nicea

2nd, 3rd and 4th century Gnostic texts rightfully rejected at Nicea

Lots of good books exist – most don't qualify as God's inspired Word

We do not have the right to choose what scriptures to believe and which to discard

We are either believers or we are not

The doctrine of Biblical inerrancy is the basis for all of our other fundamental beliefs

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Side Note Regarding Translations -

https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-translations/question7-major-theories-of-bible-translation.cfm

Formal Equivalence – (Complete Equivalence)

Word-for-word – insofar as possible

e.g. KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV, CSB

Dynamic (Functional) Equivalence

Thought-for-Thought

e.g. NIV, NLT

Commentaries – authors’ “take” added to the text

e.g. Good News for Modern Man, Amplified Bible, The Message

Blasphemies – predetermined agenda supersedes accuracy

e.g. Queen James Version, New World Translation (JW bible)

No translation is perfect – best translations combine FE with DE

Some don’t even try

Largely a matter of personal taste

Beware of strengths and weaknesses of your preferred translation

Compare commentaries to other translations to distinguish the text from the authors’ comments

Nothing wrong with commentaries. Just beware of distinction between authors’ thoughts and the text of God’s Word

Avoid blasphemies altogether except as cautionary tales and tools in evangelizing those who believe in them

Study multiple translations if possible

In original languages if you know them

Blue Letter Bible - <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

If bi-/multi-lingual use all your languages

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The Holy Trinity

God exists in three distinct facets – God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Eternal and uncreated – I AM (Exodus 3:14)

Jesus is NOT a created angel – the spirit brother of Lucifer

We accept this concept on faith recognizing we can't rationalize it

How could Jesus be fully man and yet fully God (see deity of Jesus)?

How could Jesus die?

Matthew 27:46 – Why have you forsaken me?

How can the three persons of God be distinct yet not separate

Deuteronomy 6:4 – Hear O' Israel

Trinity is present in God's Word from the very beginning.

Genesis 1:1 – אֱלֹהִים 'ĕlōhîm & בָּרָא bārā'

Genesis 1:26 – Let us make man...

John 14:7-9 – Have I been with you so long, and...

Creation of the Universe

Genesis 1 & 2

God's Word assumes without explanation that God always was, and always will be.

Fall of Man

Genesis 3

Romans 3:21-26

We are all sinners...

by nature (inheritors of the curse)

Romans 5:12-14

by choice (willful individual rebellion against God)

Romans 7:18-25

Without the fall, there would be no need of a Savior

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The Virgin Birth

Isaiah 7:14

Luke 1:26-35

Virgin birth necessary so that Jesus could be born without the sin nature inherited from Adam

Mary NOT born without a sin nature – she herself proclaims her need of a Savior

Luke 1:46-47

Mary worship is blasphemous – Mary is a created person with a sin nature inherited from Adam

The Deity of Jesus

We accept on faith that Jesus is fully God and also fully man without being able to explain it or understand it rationally

Jesus is one aspect of the Holy Trinity

Somehow Jesus was able to be born into the body of a human being

Somehow Jesus was able to die (be separated from God the Father) on the cross

By the power of His own Spirit Jesus was raised from the dead.

John 1:1-3

John 1:14

Matthew 17:1-5 -

John 8:38 & John 10:30-33 – Answer to those who say Jesus never claimed to be God. This was the very reason they crucified Him.

John 14:1-14 – Have I been with you so long...

John 17:1-5 - Transfiguration

Colossians 2:9 – In Him fullness of deity

Philippians 2:5-11 – did not consider equality with God thing to be grasped...

Present Works of God's Spirit in the World

Some teach that the miraculous works of God's Spirit ended with Jesus' apostles

Personal testimonies contradict this teaching

John 14:12-14 – greater works than these

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Angels

Created, eternal, spiritual beings

Powerful beyond imagining, but NOT omni-anything

God's messengers

Luke 1 - Gabriel

Matthew 2:13-15 – warning to Joseph

God's warriors

2 Kings 19:32-36 – 185,000 Assyrians

Daniel 10 – Gabriel and Michael

Lucifer (satan) and his demons are angels

Allowed by God temporary dominion over the Earth

Isaiah 14:12-15 – how you are fallen

Revelation 12:3-4 – dragon

Revelation 12:9 – dragon thrown down

Matthew 25:41 – eternal fire prepared for devil and his angels

NOT dead people

Ordinances of Jesus

Baptism

Matthew 28:18-20 – great commission

Communion

Matthew 26:29 – Jesus institutes communion

ALL our works including these ordained by Jesus are demonstrations of faith
NOT requirements for salvation

Luke 23:39-43 – thief on the cross

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The Gospel

Mankind's need of a Savior

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Jesus' substitutionary atonement for mankind's sin

Matthew 20:25-28 – ...life as a ransom for many

John 10:14-18 - ...I lay down my life

Jesus' resurrection

This is the **CENTRAL tenet of Christianity**

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - ...Christ has been raised...

Jesus' exclusive claim to salvation out of death

John 14:6 – This is either true or it isn't. There is no middle ground.

Mankind's free choice to accept or reject the Gospel

John 3:16-18

Romans 10:8-13

Jesus' soon return

Revelation 22:12 – I am coming soon...

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – LORD Himself will descent...

God's coming judgement

Hebrews 9:27-28 – Appointed once for man to die...

Revelation 20:11–15 – great white throne

Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus' alone

Our good works are neither necessary nor sufficient

Ephesians 2:4-10

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Questions & discussion

What about them dinosaurs?

How come my good works aren't good enough?

Memory verses

Genesis 1:1 – אֱלֹהִים 'elōhîm & בָּרָא bārā'

John 1:1-4

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

John 3:16-18

Ephesians 2:8-9