

**NOTE:** The following document is a guide to a systematic study of the Christian Faith, particularly from an apologetics standpoint. This basic overview is not exhaustive; there are many other important biblical truths; however, these are crucial to that body of teachings which constitute true Christianity. This document could be used to present an overview of the Christian Faith. It could also be used as a guide for an in-depth study.

## FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

*Foundation* = the bottom that supports, the base upon which something stands: house, wall, idea. The *Foundational truths* of Christianity = those basic truths upon which Christianity rests.

If foundational truths are destroyed, Christianity crumbles. **Psalm 11:3.** Satan attacks everything that is right, but his major focus is on the fundamentals:

**Psalm 11:3** *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

1. Origins. Divine creation (the domino effect)
2. The existence of God
3. Inerrancy of the Scriptures
4. The family
5. Satan, sin and evil
6. The deity of Christ
7. Salvation exclusively by grace through faith

The importance of sound doctrine! The Greek word is didache from the verb didasko meaning *to teach*. The idea is *indoctrination*. It's more than the idea of teaching in general; with it comes the idea of teaching a *doctrine* or specific teaching or set of teachings. For example, the doctrine of Christ, the doctrine of Paul, New Testament doctrine or Bible doctrine! Bible *doctrine* is generally despised even in church circles; however, this day the dire consequences of failure to teach foundational truths are painfully evident. The Bible insists on doctrine and indoctrination in the teachings of God as set forth in the Bible.

1. **Colossians 2:6-8.** *"Rooted ... and stablished in the faith."*

**Colossians 2:6** *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*

2. **1 Timothy 4:6-7.** *"Put the brethren in remembrance."*

**1 Timothy 4:6** *"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. 7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."*

3. **Titus 1:9-11.** Preachers are commanded by God to teach doctrine.

**Titus 1:9** *"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."*

4. **2 Timothy 3:16-4:5.** *"Given by inspiration of God, and is profitable."*

**2 Timothy 3:16** *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*

5. **Acts 5:28.** *"Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine."*

**Acts 5:28** *"Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."*

6. **2 John 7-11.** Christians dare not lose the doctrine that constitutes Christianity.

Satan is crafty, a thoroughbred deceiver. He loves to play *smoke and mirrors*.

1. One of his chief tricks is to play down the importance of doctrine. He elevates practical teaching over doctrinal teaching, church singing and entertainment over teaching and preaching. Pastors and teachers don't teach and preach doctrine, parents don't teach Christian doctrine to their children, governments remove all Christian doctrine from curriculums and the next generation is not indoctrinated. In the vacuum rushes every imaginable false doctrine.
2. Another trick of Satan is to confuse God's people as to what constitutes sound, fundamental Christian doctrine. It is easy to major on the minors and minor on the

majors and to lose sight of the *fundamentals* of the faith. Which of these is a fundamental and which is not?

- Origins by divine creation vs. church services every Wednesday night
- The inerrancy of the Scriptures vs. a King James translation
- Salvation by grace through faith in Christ vs. wine in the Lord's Supper
- The sanctity of life vs. a woman's right to her own body
- The Second Coming of Christ vs. whether or not He comes before or after the Tribulation
- That Christ is risen from the dead vs. whether or not it was on Friday
- Giving tithes and offerings vs. passing the plate or having people drop it into a box
- Modesty vs. skirts or slacks
- Honesty, integrity and accountability vs. having a business meeting every month

It is noteworthy that religious convictions are protected by law in America; religious preferences are not. A conviction is a belief for which you are willing to die.

So, what are some of the more *foundational* or *fundamental* truths/doctrines/teachings of Christianity, the undergirding truths of the Christian Faith?

## I. A CORRECT VIEW OF GOD'S EXISTENCE AND HIS NATURE

### A. Written revelation **1 Corinthians 2:9-13**

**1 Corinthians 2:9** *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."*

### B. Natural revelation **Genesis 1:1**

**Genesis 1:1** *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*

C. Personal revelation **John 1:1-2, 14**

**John 1:1** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

D. His greatness **Genesis 17:1, Jeremiah 32:17**

**Genesis 17:1** *"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."*

**Jeremiah 32:17** *"Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:"*

E. His goodness **Exodus 34:5-7**

**Exodus 34:5** *"And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."*

II. A CORRECT VIEW OF ORIGINS

A. Divine creation **Genesis 1-11**

B. A literal interpretation of the Genesis account **Romans 3:1-4**

**Romans 3:1** *"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. 3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? 4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."*

III. A CORRECT VIEW OF THE BIBLE

A. Its claims **2 Timothy 3:16**

**2 Timothy 3:16** *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

**B. Its prophecy *Isaiah 46:9-11***

*Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."*

**C. Its origin and harmony *2 Peter 1:19-21***

*2 Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

**D. Its hermeneutics *Isaiah 28:13, Nehemiah 8:8***

*Isaiah 28:13 "But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."*

*Nehemiah 8:8 "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."*

**E. Its preservation (not been lost in translations or otherwise) *Psalms 119:89***

*Psalms 119:89 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."*

**IV. A CORRECT VIEW OF THE FAMILY**

**A. Sanctity of life *Genesis 9:5***

*Genesis 9:5 "And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man."*

**B. Society's basic social institution *Genesis 2:21-24***

*Genesis 2:21 "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a*

woman, and brought her unto the man. **23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. **24** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

C. Heterosexual **Genesis 2:24**

**Genesis 2:24** "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

D. The responsibility of education **Deuteronomy 6:1-15**

**Deuteronomy 6:1** "Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: **2** That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. **3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. **4** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: **5** And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. **6** And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: **7** And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. **8** And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. **9** And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. **10** And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, **11** And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; **12** Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. **13** Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. **14** Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; **15** (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth."

## V. A CORRECT VIEW OF MAN, SATAN AND SIN

### A. Man created in the image of God **Genesis 1:26-27**

**Genesis 1:26** "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

### B. Satan **Genesis 3:1-4**

**Genesis 3:1** "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? **2** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: **3** But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:"

### C. Sin, evil and consequences **Romans 5:12**

**Romans 5:12** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

### D. Fallen and sinful by nature **Psalms 51:5**

**Psalms 51:5** "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

### E. Heaven and hell **Psalms 139:8**

**Psalms 139:8** "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."

## VI. A CORRECT VIEW OF JESUS

### A. Deity **John 1:1-2, 14**

**John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

B. Trinity **Matthew 28:19**

**Matthew 28:19** "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

C. The exclusive Savior **John 14:6, Acts 4:12**

**John 14:6** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

**Acts 4:12** "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

D. The gospel, the finished work of redemption **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

**1 Corinthians 15:1** "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

VII. A CORRECT VIEW OF REDEMPTION

A. Human efforts (works) **Titus 3:5**

**Titus 3:5** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

B. Grace **Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Ephesians 2:8** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast."

C. Eternal life **John 5:24**

**John 5:24** "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

D. By choice, not imposition **Acts 16:31**

**Acts 16:31** "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

## VIII. A CORRECT VIEW OF APPROPRIATING AND MAINTAINING SALVATION.

### A. By faith **John 3:18**

**John 3:18** *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

### B. Not by:

1. Church
2. Baptism
3. Prayer
4. Improved behavior

### C. Maintained by God **1 Peter 1:5**

**1 Peter 1:5** *"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

## IX. A CORRECT VIEW OF THE CHURCH

### A. Local, not universal **Revelation 1:20**

**Revelation 1:20** *"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."*

### B. Entered by baptism as a believer **Acts 2:41, 47**

**Acts 2:41** *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

### C. God's chief institution for His on-going work on earth **Ephesians 3:21**

**Ephesians 3:21** *"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."*

1. Worship **John 4:23-24**

**John 4:23** *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

2. Ordinances **1 Corinthians 11:1-2**

**1 Corinthians 11:1** *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. 2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."*

a) Baptism **Acts 8:36-39**

**Acts 8:36** *"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."*

b) The Lord's Supper **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

**1 Corinthians 11:23** *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."*

c) The Lord's Day **Acts 20:7**

**Acts 20:7** *"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."*

3. Missions **Matthew 28:19-20**

**Matthew 28:19** "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

X. A CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

A. Servants, not masters **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

**1 Corinthians 6:19** "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

B. Holiness **Leviticus 11:40, 1 Peter 2:9**

**Leviticus 11:40** "And he that eateth of the carcass of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: he also that beareth the carcass of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even."

**1 Peter 2:9** "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;"

C. Freedom of conscience **Joshua 24:15, Ephesians 6:5-7**

**Joshua 24:15** "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

**Ephesians 6:5** "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; **6** Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; **7** With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:"

XI. A CORRECT VIEW OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The finalization of written revelation **Jude 3**

**Jude 3** "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

**B. The indwelling of believers **Romans 8:9****

**Romans 8:9** *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

**C. The current source of divine power **2 Corinthians 3:5****

**2 Corinthians 3:5** *"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;"*

**D. Providence **Romans 8:28****

**Romans 8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

**XII. A CORRECT VIEW OF THE FUTURE**

**A. A worsening world **2 Timothy 3:1-13****

**2 Timothy 3:1** *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was. 10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."*

**B. The Second Coming **Acts 1:11****

**Acts 1:11** *"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."*

**C. Time and eternity future **The Revelation****