

A Christadelphian's Confession of Faith

If you asked a Christadelphian what he or she believed, this is the type of answer you might receive:

My faith is not just a set of Bible doctrines which I believe in theory. It is a faith to be lived as I try day by day to follow the example of the Lord Jesus. My greatest desire is for the Lord Jesus to return to earth so that I might glorify God, with Jesus, in his everlasting, worldwide kingdom here on earth!

1. The Bible

I believe the 66 books of the Bible are the Word of God, all directly inspired by Him. My faith and beliefs are based entirely on the Bible.

2. God

I believe there is only one God, the Father, who created all things. He is the eternal king, all wise and all powerful, everywhere present by His power, the Holy Spirit. God is righteous, just, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, and forgiving sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished.

3. Jesus

I believe the man Jesus of Nazareth is the only begotten Son of God, born of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. He was sent by God to be the anointed king and “righteous one” predicted by the prophets. Although sinless, he suffered, was crucified and died, yet did not decay but on the third day rose to everlasting life and then 40 days later ascended to heaven.

4. Sin and Death

I believe sin is disobedience to God and it results in death. Death is a state of unconsciousness as a body decays.

5. Promises

I believe God has selected people throughout history (such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Mary) and made promises to them. In this way, God promised possession of the land of Israel, and blessings for all nations through a special son who will rule on the throne of David for ever. These promises have only been fulfilled in part and are to be completely fulfilled in Jesus when he returns.

6. Israel

I believe God chose the nation of Israel because of His love for their ancestors, and to provide a witness to humankind of His existence. God gave them His law, prophets, promises and the land of Israel, and cared for them through their history. Jesus was sent first to the nation of Israel, which rejected him, as prophesied. Despite this, God has not rejected Israel, but people from all nations may be part of God's family and heirs of the promises.

7. The Hope of Believers

I believe that Jesus died as a sacrifice so that my sins can be forgiven and I can be made right with God. By the grace of God in Jesus – salvation, resurrection and eternal life in God's kingdom are offered as fulfilment of God's promises to all people on earth who will believe.

8. Kingdom of God

I believe that Jesus will return to earth to raise the dead, and judge them. The wicked will perish, but those who have lived their lives for God will receive the blessing of eternal life in God's Kingdom. Jesus will rule from Jerusalem with justice and peace. His kingdom will extend over the whole earth. Eventually all enemies, including suffering and death, will be destroyed. He will then hand over the kingdom to God Who will be "all in all".

9. Requirements of Believers

I believe God commanded me to repent of my sins and to be baptised (by total immersion in water) in the name of Jesus. I should worship God sincerely in faith and obedience.

10. Prayer and Fellowship

I believe I should constantly seek God's help and forgiveness through prayer, offering Him thanks and praise. I try to read the Bible every day, to listen to God's wisdom. When possible, I meet regularly with other believers, so we can encourage each other and share bread and wine in memory of Jesus' death and resurrection.

11. Way of Life

I believe that God asks me to show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I must stop sinful behaviour such as jealousy, pride, temper, sexual immorality, violence, drunkenness, gossiping, greed and materialism.

12. Marriage

I believe marriage is the lifelong partnership between a man and a woman which is intended to provide loving companionship. Children are a gift from the Lord and must be cherished

and nurtured. Husbands are to love their wives as Jesus has loved us, and wives are to love and submit to their husbands. Sexual relations outside marriage are forbidden. I believe I should marry a fellow believer.

13. Dealing with People

I believe that in all my dealings with people I must maintain godly conduct and show love to my neighbour. I will be judged in the same way that I judge others, so showing mercy and understanding is very important.

14. Money

I believe I must avoid loving money, but be content and responsible with what I have, relying on God to provide for my needs. I must be generous, giving willingly and cheerfully to those in need.

15. Law and Violence

I believe that I must obey the laws of the country where I live, provided they do not contradict the commandments of God. I refuse to participate in politics, industrial action, violence or war.

In summary, my aim is to be like Jesus, and to try to follow him throughout my life. I recognise that I may not live up to the ideals of my faith and realise my constant need for the mercy and forgiveness of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of my awareness of my need for God's mercy, I know that I should not condemn others, but forgive them as I have also been forgiven, and try to show them the same love which the Lord has shown to me.

Sarah Joiner

Contact 'Glad Tidings' if you would like the list of Bible references which show these truths.