



Christianity

DR. RANJANA SHARMA

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

DURGA MAHAVIDYALAYA



General Introduction

- Origins & scope
 - Began in 1st-century CE within Judaism
 - Now ~2+ billion adherents across the world
- Core identity
 - Centred on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ
 - Focus on love, forgiveness, and salvation
- Major branches
 - Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant traditions
 - Shared creeds with differing practices
- Sources of guidance
 - Scripture, tradition, reason, and community life (church)
 - Prayer and sacraments as key practices

Life History of Jesus Christ

- Birth & early life
 - Born in Bethlehem; raised in Nazareth
 - Mother Mary; legal father Joseph
- Public ministry
 - Baptised by John; preached God's kingdom
 - Parables, healings, inclusion of the marginalised
- Death & resurrection
 - Crucified under Pontius Pilate (~30 CE)
 - Resurrection on the third day—central Christian claim
- Legacy
 - Apostles spread message through Roman world
 - Church forms around teaching, worship, and service

Base of Christian Religion (Bible)

- Holy Scripture
 - Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)
 - New Testament: Gospels, Acts, Letters, Revelation
- Purpose
 - Reveals God's saving work in history
 - Guides belief, worship, and ethics
- Transmission
 - Canon recognised by early church councils
 - Translated widely; read in liturgy and study
- Interpretation
 - Literal and symbolic readings together
 - Use of context, genre, and tradition

Concept of God

- Monotheism
 - One God who is creator and sustainer
 - God is personal, loving, and just
- Trinity
 - Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit
 - One essence, three persons—mystery of communion
- Attributes
 - All-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present
 - Merciful and righteous in perfect unity
- Relationship
 - Invites faith, prayer, and trust
 - Grace initiates; humans respond freely

Concept of World

- Creation
 - World created good by God
 - Reflects order, beauty, and purpose
- Fall & brokenness
 - Evil and suffering distort creation
 - Human sin affects social and natural realms
- Redemption
 - God at work to renew creation in Christ
 - Hope of the 'new heaven and new earth'
- Stewardship
 - Humans called to care for creation
 - Justice, peace, and ecological responsibility

Concept of Man

- Imago Dei
 - Humans made in the image of God
 - Endowed with reason, conscience, and freedom
- Dignity & sin
 - Intrinsic worth of every person
 - Tendency to sin—alienation from God and others
- Vocation
 - Love God and neighbour
 - Develop virtues through grace and community
- Destiny
 - Called to communion with God
 - Eternal life as ultimate fulfilment

Ethics of Christian Religion

- Great commandments
 - Love of God and love of neighbour
 - Golden Rule guides interpersonal conduct
- Virtues
 - Faith, hope, love; humility and justice
 - Care for the poor and vulnerable
- Moral sources
 - Scripture, church teaching, and conscience
 - Prayerful discernment for complex issues
- Social vision
 - Human rights, peace, and reconciliation
 - Pursuit of the common good

Sermon on the Mount

- Beatitudes
 - Blessed are the poor, meek, and merciful
 - Promises of comfort, justice, and God's presence
- Ethical intensification
 - From external rule to inner intention
 - Teachings on anger, lust, oaths, and enemies
- Religious practices
 - Guidance on almsgiving, prayer, fasting
 - Model prayer: the Lord's Prayer
- Kingdom lifestyle
 - Trust in God's providence
 - Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness

Path of Salvation

- By grace through faith
 - Salvation is God's gift in Christ
 - Faith unites the believer to Christ
- Role of works
 - Good works express living faith
 - Not a substitute for grace but its fruit
- Sacramental life
 - Baptism and Eucharist central in many traditions
 - Community nurtures discipleship
- Hope
 - Forgiveness of sins and eternal life
 - Union with God and renewal of creation



Thank You