

H.P. Mahabir
CHRISTIANITY

Definition of Christianity--

Christianity is a revelation of God through Jesus Christ whereby reconciliation and a new spiritual life in fellowship with Himself are brought to mankind.

Christ is the final and supreme authority for Christianity. In fact, Jesus Christ is the final authority on all matters pertaining to the Christian religion. According to the New Testament, Christianity in its essential character is a distinct revelation of God, and in and through Jesus Christ. Christianit

reveals to men not only the
name of God, but the nature
of God which is love, and the
character of God, which is
perfect Christianity, is the
highest known conception of God.
Christianity places the greatest
valuation on man. Jesus Christ
set such high value on man's
soul that He died for it.

The late Dr. John McDowell
says "Christianity offers the
only solution of the world's
three unsolved problems--the
problem of sin, the problem of
suffering, and the problem of
sorrow. To each of these
problems the Christian message

gives a definit and satisfying answer. Its answer to the problem of sin is forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Its answer to the problem of suffering is that suffering is discipline for the sake of character. Its answer to the problem of sorrow is the assurance of the Divine Comforter. He says further that Christianity makes known to men the best uses of life. Life, in Christianity, is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end, and the end is the glory of God through saving and serving men. Sacrifice and

service are the keynotes of
Christianity. x x x x x x

(See the Shorter Catechism)

Christianity calls for oneness
of believers with Christ, and
oneness of believers themselves.

Another of its essentials is
faith in the promise of Christ--

"Lo I am with you always even
unto the end of the world; faith
in the power of the Holy Spirit
in the hearts of men and women
who will open their hearts to
Him; faith in the constraining
power of the love of Christ."

As one has said, "it is the
Christian faith that it is the
purpose of God that the spirit

of Jesus Christ is the norm for our lives." We should, therefore endeavor by the enabling grace of God to approach life's problems under the guidance of the spirit of Christ, first asking ourselves--What would ✓
Jesus do in a similar situation.

In ~~the~~ 1 John 3:24 Christianity is defined in terms of the Spirit. "And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And whereby we know that He abideth in us by the Spirit which He hath given us."

Christianity and the Social Order

The stability of Christian civilization is being threatened, due largely to the failure of the Christian church to live the gospel which it preaches. Says Christ, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." This means that we should have not only an historical knowledge of truth as it is in Jesus Christ, but should have an experimental knowledge of this truth, which means we should live the truth.

The task of the church is to

Christianize the social order through Christ. The world has been thrown out of gear by sin and corruption of the social order. This situation is due to the fact that the principles of Christianity have been largely left out of the equation of the problems of the world. Too often, no room in the inn is left for Christ. More and more he is left out of the home. The family altar is fast becoming a thing of the past. Christ is being left out of much of the education offered to the youth of our day, and increasing

emphasis is being put on secular values. Material values are receiving double emphasis. *President Wilson*
Business is often conducted on the principle of getting all you can and canning all you get, at any price and method. Christ to a large extent is left out of politics and the governments of states and nations. X X X X X

Nations should take warning from the Holy scriptures that righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

America needs a spiritual awakening, a call to repentance. We have become a nation which is

largely worshipping at the shrine of mammon instead of the cross of Christ. The cost of crime in the U.S. last year was around fifteen billion dollars or more than three times the annual cost of maintaining the federal government.

The Christian religion is a thing vital to a Christian's everyday life. In fact, it is a part of the Christian's life.

The Christian religion is believing in Christ, obeying Him and following Him. It is devotion to His ideals, and consecration to His service.

It is human thought, soul
and action by the enabling
grace of God through Christ
moving in harmony with the will
of God.

Says the Word of God:

To him that knoweth to do
good, and doeth it not, to him
it is sin.

James 4:17

✓ Pure religion and undefiled
before God and the Father is this:
to visit the fatherless and
widows in their affliction, and
to keep himself unspotted from
the world.

James 1:27

(Christian religion is
Christianity at work.)

Christianity in Relation to
the Spirit of Christ

John defined Christianity in terms of the Spirit. "And he that kepted th His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And whereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us." (1 John 3:24)

"Now, if any man," said Paul, "have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." (Rom. 8:9)

The burden of the kingdom of God.

Sometimes kingdom to him meant a power in the soul, sometimes a

society redeemed and purified, but always to him, it was the reign of God--over all, and in all and through all.

The coming of the kingdom means the righting of cruel wrongs in the world. When the kingdom comes, tyranny, oppression, ^{and} injustice will cease; strife and distrust will be eliminated; the noise and terror of war will be heard no more; hate and enmity shall die, and justice, peace and joy will reign in all hearts, in all homes, and in all lands.

Service

Relation of Service to
Christianity

Service is an outward
expression of Christianity.

Christianity by its very
nature demands an outlet.

Christ emphasized the importance
of service, in His teaching and
life. "Wist ye not that I must
be about my Father's business?
(Luke 2:29 and John 13:3-5) XXXX

One of the best evidences of
Christianity is service.

"Herein is my Father glorified
that ye bear much fruit." (John
15:8 and 7:19-23, 13:14-15)

Loyalty to Christ

Relation of Loyalty to Christianity--

1. Loyalty to Christ is a necessary test to Christianity.
(John 1:43 and 15:4)
2. Loyalty is the foundation of Christianity.
3. Loyalty to Christ is the motive for obedience in Christianity.
"If ye love Me," said Christ, "keep my commandment."
4. Loyalty to Christ is the incentive to sacrifice and therefore an essential test to Christianity.

5. Loyalty to Christ is the
bond of fellowship.