

# Who Are the Important Characters?

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They say you cannot tell the characters without a program, so here is our brief explanation of who we think are the important figures to focus on when deciding whether or not you want to believe in Christ.

## **GOD**

As we have mentioned earlier, God is an unimaginable and incomprehensible power. He<sup>1</sup> is certainly all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere present and eternal, and not limited by time, matter, space, or dimension. However, any attempt to describe His powers will certainly fall short. Why? Because in trying to describe God, we are limited by our existing knowledge, language and science, and God clearly transcends those limits. In fact, He has no limits. It is important to know that God existed before the beginning of creation because He is the source of creation. As we have also previously mentioned, it is fruitless to try and imagine God through the eyes of man.

Notwithstanding what we call the Myth of Michelangelo, where God was painted in the image of man, in John 4:24 Jesus tells us that God is actually Spirit:

*“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Rightly so, this takes God completely out of our realm of flesh and understanding and puts Him in a dimension where we can only know Him in the invisible spiritual realm through faith and/or belief; but we can certainly see His accomplishments every time we open our eyes!

Another of the more confusing things for most people to comprehend about God is His plurality. While there is truly only one God Almighty, our one God manifests Himself to us in three different and distinct persons, with each person having His own purpose and possessing all the unimaginable and incomprehensible powers associated with God.

*Note: By person we mean having intellect, will, and emotion, but with the exception of Jesus Christ, not necessarily having had a physical form.*

Biblical Christians refer to this “plurality of one” as the Holy Trinity, and the three unique persons who have different but complementary roles within the Holy Trinity are:

1. **God The Father/Creator:** In this person, God is both the Creator of all things – both those we know about and those we do not know about – as well as Father (through His Holy Spirit) to Jesus Christ, and through the creation of Adam and Eve, Father to all of humanity. Because of this, we are all God’s offspring. In essence, God the Father has a role analogous to a human father in the sense that He is the ultimate authority within the Godhead. The Son and the Holy Spirit submit to Him.
2. **God The Son/Jesus Christ:** Jesus is unique in that He is both the only begotten Son of God<sup>2</sup> and also a man in the flesh, the son of Mary. He was born of Mary but conceived through the Holy Spirit, and as a result, is considered both 100% God and 100% man. Jesus is, therefore, unique among all men who have ever lived in that He is God as well as the Savior of humanity. In our view, this uniqueness makes Jesus the most important character with respect to humanity, as we explain in more detail in our next PDF document, *“Why Is Jesus the Main Character?”*

Jesus is a perfect example of the concept of a plurality of one. Jesus is God. He has all the unimaginable and incomprehensible powers of God. And yet, He is referred to as the Son of God and He even refers to God as His Father. A hard concept to understand, we know – but remember, we are dealing with a power that is beyond even our greatest imagination and comprehension.

3. **God The Holy Spirit:** Of all the roles of God, the Holy Spirit is probably the hardest to comprehend, and yet He is the God-Role we have contact with most frequently. When trying to comfort His disciples prior to His death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the “Helper” who will be sent to them from God. Our interpretation of the Holy Spirit is that the powers that allowed God to create the universe and all things in it are just too intense to be frequently exhibited in the presence of man. But God wants us to know He is there to guide us, and to provide for us, and to protect us. The person of the Godhead/Trinity who has been assigned that role is the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is all around us and yet we cannot see Him<sup>3</sup>, taste Him, smell Him, or touch Him – but we can often sense His presence.<sup>4</sup> In John 3:8A, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit of God as something like the wind:

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<sup>1</sup> We refer to God in the masculine as that is how the Bible refers to God; but while God created the genders, He is not limited by them.

<sup>2</sup> Begotten has a critical meaning here in that it identifies Jesus as having been born of God as opposed to having been created by God. Aside from Jesus and the Holy Spirit, all other beings and spirits, have their origin as creations of God.

<sup>3</sup> In Scripture the Holy Spirit is always referred to as a He or a Him.

<sup>4</sup> The one exception is when the Holy Spirit manifested Himself as a dove at the baptism of Jesus, according to Matthew 3:16.

***“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going.”***

Ask yourself, have you ever experienced an event – something that either happened to you, or that you witnessed - that just simply could not be explained? Most of us have had such experiences and they are indeed unexplainable (and unimaginable until they happen), and they can be rather dramatic. Quite possibly, this is the Holy Spirit operating either in your presence, or, if you are a believer in Christ, operating within you.

You should also know that the Holy Spirit has been with God from the very beginning. As Genesis 1:2 tells us:

***“The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”***

In summary, we think it best to try and accept the Holy Trinity as God manifesting Himself as three persons, each with a unique role, i.e., God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One almighty God but with three decidedly different manifestations and all having the same unimaginable and incomprehensible powers.

## **The Bible**

It may seem odd to consider the Bible as a “character”, and if it were just a written compilation of individual books, we wouldn’t consider it as such. But the Bible is more than that – it is the inspired, inerrant, and occasionally metaphorical Word of God. Did God Himself “write down” the Bible? Obviously not. But through His presence and through His Holy Spirit, He did communicate all that is in the Bible. This is especially obvious in the New Testament Gospels where we read the words spoken by Jesus to His disciples, or to the Pharisees, or to the assembled crowds, etc. When Jesus speaks, remember, it is also God who is speaking. Talking to His disciples, Jesus describes the role of the Holy Spirit in creating the Bible’s content as follows:

***“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*** (John 14:26)

With three and a half years of a walking ministry covering many lands, a multitude of healings, a myriad of teachings, how were the disciples able to remember it all – to share with others and write about it in their Gospels? The Holy Spirit was there, inside them, helping them; and this is why the Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God. Jesus describes the presence of the Holy Spirit in His disciples in John 14:16-17:

***“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”*** [Note: “world” here is meant the sin-natured world.]

## **Satan**

Yes, there is evil in the world, and it is personified in the character of Satan (also known as Lucifer). Satan is the worst and most powerful of God’s “fallen” angels. Satan is the great liar, deceiver, manipulator, and counterfeiter. As an angel, He is a spirit who reigns over the fallen world of mankind (I John 5:19; II Corinthians 4:4). While he was created as a spirit, and thus without a body, he still reigns over our sinful “world”. Thanks to Adam and Eve (see below), we are born sinners, and while we remain in this perishable life, we will always be subject to Satan’s deceitful and manipulative powers.

*Important Note: While believers in Christ are no longer under Satan’s “control” as we have been freed from it, Satan will still constantly use his powers of temptation and deception to try and separate us from God. (see Colossians 2:8-10). In this perishable life, though we have submitted to Christ as believers, we retain access to exercising our free will, and Satan will take every advantage of this to try and uncouple us from our belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior.*

Now before you think you are off the hook for all your bad acts because “the devil made you do it”, just know that Satan is a deceiver, not a doer. In the Garden of Eden, Satan did not eat of the Forbidden Fruit; Eve did. Satan did not command Eve to eat the Forbidden Fruit; she did so of her own accord. What Satan did do was deceive Eve into thinking that she would not die from disobeying God. Satan deceived Eve into doubting God’s word and then he tempted her with a lie that she too would become wise like God in knowing good and evil if she but ate the good tasting fruit of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil – even though God commanded Adam (who also told Eve) never to do so.

What makes Satan’s power to influence our thinking and behavior so dangerous is that we rarely know it’s Satan at work. That is how deceitful he is. Satan’s tools of temptation, deceit, and lies always create a false sense of gain when the real result is usually disastrous – as it was for Adam and Eve, and thus the rest of humanity. We often say sin is a blast that doesn’t last.

## **Adam & Eve**

Adam and Eve are the origin of humanity<sup>5</sup>, and unfortunately for us, humanity's original sinners. God's kingdom is perfect and cannot abide sin (disobeying God's rules and commands). Hence, because they disobeyed God's command not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, and as a consequence of their sin, lived in a fallen world in which death reigned. Like Adam and Eve, as their offspring, we also live in a sin-natured world and face a physical death.

And believe it or not, God's casting of Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, and having their lives end in death, set the stage for the miracle of salvation, which is the basis of Christianity. Jesus died for all sinners to give us back the hope of eternal life. Although we all face physical death, those who trust in Him will ultimately have eternal life with Him. This is further explained in our next PDF, "[Why Is Jesus the Main Character?](#)".

## **Humanity**

Very simply, humanity consists of Adam and Eve and all their offspring, including you and me. We are humanity, and we originated as sinless creatures who later sinned and thus became unwelcome in God's kingdom. In the Bible, Romans 3:23 describes us (humanity) perfectly:

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

But more important for us to understand is that the penalty for our sins was paid in full, through Jesus Christ's death on the cross; and as a result, each of us, if we choose to believe in Christ as our Lord and Savior, can be welcomed back into God's glorious kingdom through His gift of eternal life.

## **The Twelve Disciples / The Apostles**

Throughout His ministry, Jesus had many followers. Many groups of followers were just town folk who were often referred to in the Bible as crowds. However, a number of followers often walked with Jesus as He went from town to town. One night, early in His ministry, Jesus went off by Himself to pray for His Father's wisdom and guidance in selecting a group of twelve men who would be entrusted with having a very special relationship with Jesus, and they were to be known as His disciples – and later, His Apostles. They were selected to begin broadcasting Jesus' message throughout all nations. One of the twelve would also betray Him.

*"It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." (Luke 6:12 – 6:16)*

With Jesus' teachings and blessing, and the Holy Spirit's guidance, these original disciples/Apostles, absent Judas who was replaced by a new disciple Matthias, gave birth to Christianity.

## **The Body of Christ – His Church**

It is important for you to know who/what makes up the Body of Christ because if you elect to believe in Christ, you automatically become a member of this Body – and no, we are not talking about Jesus' physical body, but rather His "spiritual" body.

True believers in Christ, and the vitality of our fellowship with each other, comprise the body of Christ and constitute His Church. Collectively, we are His body, and His body is us. Christ revealed this important relationship during His Last Supper, on the evening prior to His crucifixion.

*"While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body'. And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.'" (Matthew 26:26-28) And Luke 22:19 records Jesus saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

*Note: While Christ reveals the important relationship between His body and the fellowship of His future Church at the Last Supper, His actual Church does not come into existence until the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit indwells all believers for the first time. (See the promise given to those who would repent in Acts 2:38-41)*

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<sup>5</sup> We do not believe "Modern Man" evolved from the ape family, but rather were God created beings placed on earth by Him to rule. As mentioned, we explain our rationale for this belief in great detail in our PDF document, "[Scripture and Science – How Well Do They Relate?](#)".

The concept of fellowship and belonging as one in Christ's body is further exemplified in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Roman Christians:

*"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this (sin-natured) world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."* (Romans 12:1-5)

The Christian "Church" is also known as the Body of Christ because of these common characteristics <sup>6</sup>. Members of the Body of Christ:

- 1) are joined to Christ in salvation (**Ephesians 4:15-16**).
- 2) follow Christ as their Head (**Ephesians 1:22-23**).
- 3) are the physical representation of Christ in this world. The Church is the organism through which Christ manifests His life to the world today.
- 4) are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Christ (**Romans 8:9**).
- 5) possess a diversity of gifts suited to particular functions: *"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ"* (**1 Corinthians 12:12**).
- 6) share a common bond with all other Biblical Christians, regardless of background, race, or ministry: *"There should be no division in the body, but . . . its parts should have equal concern for each other"* (**1 Corinthians 12:25**).
- 7) are secure in their salvation *if* their faith endures (John 10:28-30).
- 8) partake of Christ's death and resurrection through their repentance and spiritual baptism by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, which commences when they commit their lives in faith to Christ. (**Colossians 2:12**).
- 9) share Christ's inheritance because as true believers, we too, are God's children (**Romans 8:17**).
- 10) receive the gift of Christ's righteousness (**Romans 5:17**).

Just know that as a member of the Body of Christ, what is most important is your relationship to Jesus. That is followed closely by the strength and vitality of your fellowship with other Biblical Christians. We believe our institutional Church affiliation, if we have one, should never take precedence over our relationship with Christ and our fellowship with other brethren.

## **You**

Yes, you too, are an important character. Why? Because believing in Christ, if that is what you ultimately choose to do, is more than merely "checking a box". Choosing to believe in Christ is obviously the first step in having a vital relationship with Him; but choosing how you believe in Christ or determining what you want your relationship with Christ to look like, completes the step. We compare it to building a home. First, you look at a bunch of plans and drawings and say to yourself, "Yep, that's what I want – I really like how it looks and it is a perfect floorplan for me." But it doesn't stop there. Next, you actually have to build it if you truly want it. The same is true in having a relationship with Christ – first you have to say yes, I want salvation and eternal life and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit in my current life; then you must build the relationship that makes it all possible.

We have created a number of documents on how to build a vital relationship with Christ – a relationship that delivers salvation and Fruit of the Holy Spirit. See: [What Does Being Christ-like Look Like?](#), [What Is Required to Have Fruit of the Holy Spirit](#), [How to Turn beliefs into Behaviors](#), [Major Themes in Christianity](#), and [Next Steps](#).

## **The Sin-Natured World**

By sin-natured world, you might think we are referring to anything a human can access through their five physical senses: Taste, Touch, Smell, Sight and Hearing. This would be true if we were just talking about the Earth and all of its "physical" components. But in this discussion, by "sin-natured world" we mean the sinful nature of humanity that pervades the Earth. Why is this distinction important? Three reasons:

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<sup>6</sup> See GotQuestions.org.

1. Satan is the Prince of Darkness and this sin-natured world, over which he rules with his demonic spirits, is his kingdom. Yes, we live in his playground. If you doubt that, ask yourself if you have ever been miserable. We'll leave it at that.
2. Sin is the most distinguishing characteristic of this world, and it is precisely because we are of the flesh and do not always abide in Christ and His righteousness, that we are tempted by sin and fall prey to it.
3. We need to understand – and believe – that through our salvation in Christ, another and far superior place than this sin-natured world awaits us.

## **Heaven and Hell**

Yes, there is a Heaven and a Hell. We have trouble believing these exist precisely because they are places living creatures cannot currently taste, touch, smell, see or hear. And, because of humanity's arrogant self-righteousness, we are quick to conclude that if we cannot taste, touch, smell, see or hear something, it must not exist. How narcissistic of us.

Here are five things about Heaven and Hell we should know:

1. Heaven is where God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, along with God's Holy angels, reside. The souls of those who were faithful to God prior to Christ's ministry are also there. Finally, it's where the souls (and future imperishable bodies) of those who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior will ultimately reside.
2. The lake of fire [hell] is where the imperishable bodies and souls of those who have rejected God or Christ will ultimately reside, along with Satan and his demons and evil spirits.
3. Some spirits can travel between Heaven and earth, but flesh – as we now know it – cannot<sup>7</sup>. Note: Satan (Lucifer) is one of God's "fallen" angels. As such, he is a spirit and can travel between Heaven and our sin-natured world. Because of his rebellion against God he was cast out of Heaven, and although he has access to Heaven, he no longer resides there. Instead, he now resides and has dominion over our sin-natured world. You cannot see him or touch him – but his influence is everywhere.
4. Many people claim that they have experienced either Heaven or Hell. This is most unlikely except in rather extreme cases, e.g., they died and then were miraculously brought back to life. In this case, those who claim to have seen Heaven often refer to it as an unimaginable bright white light. Those who claim to have seen Hell often refer to it as an unimaginable blackness. These descriptions are totally consistent with Scripture.
5. Many people claim to have experienced a brush with a spirit. With respect to good spirits, some refer to these as Guardian angels, but they are not limited to this type. Gabriel was clearly a messenger angel and appears to many people in Scripture. And, of course, the Holy Spirit dwells in all those who truly believe in Jesus Christ. God, because His power is unimaginable and incomprehensible, also has the capacity to use angels and spirits to influence all of us. Many who practice advanced witchcraft indicate they have communicated with evil spirits.

*WARNING: Remember: Satan is also a spirit and worse than that, he is the master of deception and ruler of our sin-natured "world". If you feel you have been brushed by a spirit that encourages you to do something that just doesn't feel right, it could well be the devil playing tricks on you. Sound crazy? Well, just ask yourself, have you ever done something and then asked yourself, why in heck did I do that? Or have you done something you really didn't want to do? Or have you done something you knew was bad and you shouldn't do it, but you did it anyway? If you have experienced these, know that it could well have been Satan or one of his evil spirits tempting you. But remember, Satan is a deceiver, not a doer.*

*How do you know if a demonic spirit is trying to influence you? Initially, all you have is your instinct – but it, too, can be deceived. The best way to tell if you are being influenced is to know, understand and practice the Word of God (the Bible). When you know the language of God and Christ, it will help you discern when you are being tempted by demonic spirits. When you walk in the Light with Jesus, the darkness of demonic spirits will find it hard to reach you.*

Because heaven and hell are important aspects of Biblical Christianity, we have created a separate PDF document that answers the question ["Where Are Heaven and Hell?"](#).

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<sup>7</sup> When believers are resurrected at the second coming of Christ (see Revelation), our perishable bodies are cast aside and are replaced with "bodies" that are immortal and do not perish.