

Basic Denominational Differences in Structure and Beliefs

What do Christians believe God is like?

- Omnipotent – All powerful, and unstoppable.
 - Benevolent – All loving, regardless of sin.
 - Omniscient – All knowing, knows everything and doesn't need to be told.
 - Transcendent – Beyond space and time, not bound by normal laws of physics.
 - Imminent – Outside of time, can be at any point in history.
 - Personal/Omnipresent – He can be with everyone at once and relate to them.
 - Monotheistic – He is only one God, despite the Trinity.
 - The Trinity – He is three in one; the father, the son and the Holy spirit.
 - Creator/Destroyer – In control of the Earth, he can create and destroy at will.
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Unitarians and Jehovah's Witnesses

- Most Christians believe there is separation between God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit (the Trinity).
 - Unitarians believe God is one being and that Jesus is not the son of God and the Holy Spirit is simply the force of God.
 - They still believe Jesus was the saviour of the world and the humans though, just as a sort of prophet or messenger to save the human race.
 - Jehovah's Witnesses on the other hand reject the teaching of the Trinity all together.
 - They believe Jesus is simply not eternal as man and cannot live forever just like God.
 - Jesus in their mind is a single being other than God whom is another being. The Holy Spirit is again seen as a force of God's power.
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Eastern and Western Churches

- The Orthodox (eastern) churches don't have a unified Pope, while the Catholics (western) do and he is generally chosen by the highest bishops in the Catholic church.
- This means that there is no unifying mentality in the East despite being more traditional. Ideas are split and mix between traditional and liberal while Catholics are united in ideology.
- No Bishop is supreme in the Orthodox church, everyone is equal whereas there is a strong hierarchy in the Catholic Church.

- Roman Catholic children (under 12 years old) aren't involved in the practices of congregation like communion despite baptism. In the Orthodox church, children are brought up on communion.
- Orthodox churches do not believe there is a bridge towards Heaven and Hell like purgatory and so as a result they disagree with paying to be forgiven for your sins (indulgences).
- In the 60s and 70s, Liturgical services were revolutionised in the Catholic church while changes in the service for Orthodox churches have been slow and non-existent for a long time.
- While Catholics do not eat meat on Fridays, strict Orthodox Christians fast for up to half a year.