

Christianity

According to the 1991 census, 2.32 percent of the total population of India is of Christians. Its total population in India is one crore 89 lakhs. The followers of Christianity are the largest in the world and their followers are in third place in India. There are an estimated eight billion people who follow Christianity all over the world. The largest number of followers of Christianity is in Europe, America and Australia.

The founder of Christianity was Jesus Christ. At that time Herod's kingdom was in Palestine. Under the orders of the emperor Augustus, a masochism was going on among the Romans, in which a Jewish carpenter named Joseph went from the city of Nazareth to Bethlehem to join. There his wife Mary gave birth to Jesus. Jesus is not considered the son of Joseph. He is considered to be a divine son.

Christianity started from Palestine. All the information about this religion comes from the Bible. The Bible has two parts - the Old Bible (Old Testament) and the New Bible (New Testament). The Old Bible is written by the prophets of Judaism, Hazrat Dawood and Hazrat Musa. The New Bible contains the teachings of Jesus. Jews believe in the Old Bible and Christians believe in the New Bible. Christianity is a refined and refined form of Judaism.

There is an influence of ancient Greek philosophy and ideology on Christianity. Also this religion is influenced by Buddhism. The influence of Islam on Christianity is also reflected. Opposition to monotheism and idolatry is characteristic of both religions, yet there is conflict in both religions. are happening.

Jesus Christ and His Messages

(Christ and His Message) Jesus Christ was born in Palestine in a village near Jerusalem. His mother was Mary and father was Joseph, who used to work as a groom. As a child, he did not take education from any school, he had no guru. There are many legends about him. Some people consider him to be an imaginary person, while some consider him to be the son of a virgin mother who has been born from divine power.

When he was 12 years old, he went to attend the Jewish festival 'Passover'. When they saw small lambs being cut there, whose blood was being worshipped, a thought arose in Jesus' mind that how can there be devotees who kill lambs? After this, all the religious leaders listened to speeches, which also disappointed Jesus because the words and deeds of the people were not the same. Then God himself came to his attention and said that 'go to all the people and introduce them to my love. From that day on, Jesus considered God as father and considered the goal of his life to bring humans closer to God.

For about 18 years, Jesus lived with the Dalai Lama, the priest of Buddhism in Tibet. At the age of 30, in a forest on the banks of the Jordan River, a saint named John (John) performed the baptism of Jesus and after that he came to be called Jesus Christ (Jesus Christ). After receiving initiation from John, Jesus Christ started living in the forest.

At the time of Christ, the society was suffering from many evils. He gave discourses from place to place to get rid of it. He gave a new religion in place of Judaism. He served the patients. Raised voice against superstitions and ancient customs. He performed some miracles, due to which people started criticizing him by calling him a liar and a magician. The followers of Judaism began to torment him. But

nevertheless he carried out his teachings, which earned him many followers, of whom Andrews and Peter became two disciples. Peter declared him the Messiah.

At that time it was believed that the Messiah would be the king of the Jews and would rule over Jerusalem, so Jesus went to Jerusalem and proclaimed himself the Messiah there. This led to his many opponents, to avoid whom Jesus lived in the temple during the day and went out of the village at night. Later, when the protests flared up, he decided to leave the village.

As they were leaving the city, the soldiers caught hold of them and presented them to the priest of Jerusalem. He was taken to the court of the chief administrator of Rome. Here too, when Jesus declared himself the Messiah, people got angry and demanded to punish him. At the age of 33, Jesus was hanged on the cross. Thus the Messiah who told the truth was put to death. Jesus exhorted to believe in the divine devotion to God, to have compassion for all, to remain single. He said that God is the father of human beings and like mother he gives affection and love. Forgives man for his mistakes. God is greater than the father. There are three forms of God described in Christianity.

Forms of God

The following are the three forms of God

1. God the Father - Christianity believes in the Supreme Lord as the Father of the one and all worlds. He is the beginning, the infinite, the all-powerful, the absolute truth, and everywhere. The whole world is his creation. He is kind, loving, omnipresent. Man, animal, bird, all created by Him. This world too is running by the law made by him. His power is known through his intuition. It cannot be known by external means.

2. Son of God Jesus Christ is considered to be the son of God. Jesus is the link between man and God and He is the only son of God.

3. Holy Spirit - In Christianity, purity is considered to be a divine spirit. That soul purifies the human mind It does That spirit is the power of God that awakens from time to time. Develops good qualities in human beings. Unless there is the grace of the Supreme-Holy Spirit, one will not find a place at the feet of God.

In Christianity the cross (+) is accepted as a special sacred symbol that symbolizes sacrifice. Jesus took this as an illustration and completed the task of self-sacrifice.

Five Commandments of Jesus

- Jesus has given five orders in his discourses

(1) It is said in the old scripture, do not kill anyone. A murderer is a sinner. I tell you not to be angry with your brother. A person who is angry with his brother, speaks bitter things, is guilty of sin.

(2) It is said in the old scripture - do not commit adultery. Divorce her as soon as she separates from the woman. I tell you that no woman should be looked down upon.

(3) It is written in the old scriptures - do not swear, but stand firm on your promises before God.

(4) It is said in the old scriptures - open an eye for an eye, but I tell you, do not avenge evil with evil. If someone pats on one cheek, turn the other cheek in front of him.

(5) It is told in the old scriptures - love only the people of your caste, but I say love every person. Love even those who consider you their enemy.

Ten Commandments

The ten commandments of God have been told in the wivil, which are considered to be sacred laws. Following are these commands

- (1) I am the eternal God.
- (2) There is no physical image of God.
- (3) God is the eternal and sovereign ruler of the entire universe.
- (4) Remembering Savth.

It has been said in the Bible that for 6 days man should work for the coming life and the seventh day should be kept for the remembrance of God. God has made the seventh day holy.

- (5) Respecting parents.
- (6) Man must protect God and his law.
- (7) You shall not commit adultery.
- (8) You will not steal.
- (9) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
- (10) You shall not covet.

It is necessary for a person to follow the above 10 commands. Apart from this, the main principles of Christianity are also important, which are as follows

1. Fundamental loyalty - The fundamental loyalty to Christianity is that God is the father of the whole world, we are all his children, we are brothers among ourselves, so we should behave with mutual love.

2. Sermons on the Mount - The sermons given by Insa on the Mount are the cornerstone of Christianity. Jesus said - "Blessed are those who are poor in heart, humble, merciful, whose heart is pure. This whole kingdom of heaven belongs to those who desire to know righteousness and establish peace." "

3. Major Basis-Love-Love is the basis of Christianity. Jesus said, "Love those who are your neighbours, those who love you, but you also love your enemies, ask God for them too."

Sects of Christianity

There are mainly two sects of Christianity - (1) Roman Catholic (2) Protestant.

1. Roman Catholic - The Roman Catholic sect begins with the Church of Rome founded by Saint Paul. Two types of work are performed by the Roman Church - (i) it gives religious teachings and interprets the Wypil, in line with Roman Catholic conditions. The Pope of the Church of Rome has the ultimate authority to interpret the Bible. They believe that the Pope continues to receive divine messages. So he can never be wrong. The authority and powers of the Pope are great. (ii) Roman Catholicism believes

that human beings are born sinners. Sanskars make him holy. Those sacraments are baptism, matrimony, marriage, confession of sins, holy food, etc.

2. Protestant - The Protestant sect in Christianity was started by Martin Luther who started the reformist movements in Christianity. At that time, the Pope and the Church had spread many pretensions in Christianity. The Pope used to give tickets to heaven for money and the life of the people was under the Church. Luther's Personal Thinking

and considered freedom important. He believed that the love of God could be attained through the spiritual path. It is not necessary to follow any customs etc. He also believed that in order to become a true Christian, there is a need for sacraments too.

is not needed. It can be achieved by having faith in God with a pure heart. Even worshiping Jesus is not necessary for the attainment of God, it also opposes idol worship. Bivil can also be criticized. In the view of Protestants, sacraments are means, they should not be considered as ends. This sect is also opposed to popism.

In brief, the following differences are found between Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations-

(1) People of Roman Catholicism perform the sacraments in front of the statue of Jesus. Protestantism opposes idolatry.

(2) The Church and the Pope are the supreme authority in Roman Catholicism. Protestant religion rejects them.

(3) Roman Catholics consider the Bible to be the ultimate truth. The Bible can be criticized in Protestantism.

(4) The Roman Catholics confess their crimes to the clergy. Protestant sectarians with their placenta in front of Jesus Christ Accept the wash.

(5) The Pope is more important in Roman Catholicism, the Bible has been given importance in Protestantism.

(6) Roman Catholicism considers sacraments to be ends, in Protestantism these are considered means.

In this way the soul of both the sects is one, yet there is a difference between the two.

Basic Characteristics of Christianity

The following are the basic characteristics of Christianity

1. Monotheism - Christianity believes in one God. God through his sons comes to this world or sends his prophets to remove the sufferings of human beings. God is divine and supernatural power. Like the Father, nurtures men, shows mercy to them, purifies their hearts.

2. Purity of the soul - In Christianity, importance has been given to the soul, which is the form and power of God. Through the baptism ceremony a person is sanctified and brought near to the Holy Spirit. Christianity believes in Trinity, which means that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one and the same, not separate, only their forms differ.

3. Belief in Jesus Christ - the urge to believe in Jesus Christ in Christianity

Jesus is considered to be the messenger of God, whom God has sent to the earth for the welfare of human beings.

4. Power of the Church - The Church is considered important in Christianity. Church is a means to reach God. The Church is said to be the body of Christ in which the Holy Spirit resides. Religious rituals, such as marriages, are also performed in the church among Christians. Church membership is compulsory for every Christian.

5. Religious rituals - There are five rituals in Christianity - baptism, confirmation, self-revelation, sacred communication and marriage. (i) By baptism a person is converted to Christianity and brought near to the Holy Spirit. • (ii) Confirmation and (iii) Through self-confession, a person surrenders to God and surrenders to God. Accepts sins and seeks forgiveness from God. And repents. (iv) In Holy Communion, mass worship and communion are taken - the purpose of this ritual is to acknowledge the importance of church and collective life. (v) Matrimony rituals are considered necessary to lead a holy life, to fulfill sexual desires, to lead a family life.

6. Anti-Idol-worship- Christianity does not believe in idol-worship. He believes in the supernatural and formless God.

7. Equality and Fraternity - Christianity accepts the principle of equality and fraternity. All those who believe in Christianity are equal, they are brothers to each other, there is no discrimination of any kind between them. This religion also emphasizes on the spirit of human welfare. Jesus says that all human beings are the children of God. All are equal. Service to the poor and downtrodden is true service to God.

Impact of Christianity on Indian Society

Christianity has influenced Hinduism in many ways. The Christian missionaries did many such works which developed a sense of equality among the Hindus. Some effects are described as follows.

(1) Christianity believes in the spirit of equality and fraternity and castes have been given special importance in the Hindu Varna system. Among the Hindus, the Brahmin was the highest and the Shudra was the lowest caste, he was denied many rights. The Hindu caste-system was also affected by the arrival of Christians in India. People began to believe that the caste-system was not a God-given system, but it was created by all self-realized elements. Christian missionaries did many reformatory works among the lower castes. If schools were opened for them, hospitals were built, then the attention of Indian social reformers was also towards this got attracted. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi did many works for Harijan-liberation. Thus the feeling of untouchability decreased. Christianity has given unprecedented support to Indian society in uplifting the social status of the lower castes and providing an optimistic outlook towards life.

(2) Due to the influence of Christianity, the position of women in Indian society changed a lot. Literacy among women increased. She started helping in economic progress by coming out of the boundary wall of the house. Attention was also paid to equality of men and women. Influenced by Christianity, many women's reform movements - Arya Samaj, Brahmo Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission. etc. were done by Indian social reformers. Women were made aware of many rights; Motivation was given to become aware towards education, business etc. Christian thus

Religion has contributed towards the improvement of the status of women in India.

(3) Christianity also influenced the religious life of Hindus in many ways. There were many customs, customs, rituals, rituals in Hinduism which had promoted caste narrowness in the society. The country was distorted by omens, bad omens, fortune telling, ghosts, witchcraft etc. The Christians brought an unprecedented change in the thinking of the Hindus. Due to Christian influence, Hindu people started bringing changes in orthodox ideologies. The attitude of secularism flourished in them. The effect of superstition, witchcraft etc. started decreasing. Conventional Got rid of conflicting elements. Many reformist movements were born due to the influence of Christians serving the castes (considered low by Hindus) which put an end to religious superstition and orthodoxy and put its true nature in front of the people. Many welfare schemes started being made. On the one hand, Christians removed caste narrowness, on the other hand they also propagated their religion which affected Indian life.

(4) Christians also influenced Hindus in the political field, but some ill effects were also visible from this point of view. Christians spread their religion throughout the country. Due to this people converted to religion, feelings of animosity towards Hindus started rising. In the course of time, the loyalty of the people started increasing more in the western society rather than in the Indian society. Conversion also encouraged some disruptive tendencies. International activities started getting encouragement. People started demanding independent states from time to time. This was the evil effect of this religion.

(5) The influence of Christianity encouraged materialistic features in the Indian social structure, due to which the traditional social structure, which was idealistic, was now oriented towards the transcendence. Collectivism was replaced by individualism. Now the person started trying to increase

the amenities. The interests of family, caste, society and country were paramount in the Indian system. The sense of duty was the norm of the animal, but the Christian influence made the person comfortable and inclined towards personal interests. This was the result of the influence of Christianity on Indian society.

(6) Awareness came in Indian society due to Christianity. Earlier there were many superstitions, evils in Indian society, as a result of which hypocrisy etc. were getting protection. Sati-practice, infant-murder, human sacrifice, death-banquet, untouchability, polygamy, ban on widow-marriage, etc., could be said to be the specialty of that society. The Christian missionaries drew their attention to these evils and also made the Indian religious reformers aware of them. Gradually, people became aware of these evils as a result of Christian influence: Thus, as a result of Christianity, awareness of superstitions and evils arose in Indian society.

(7) Christianity also changed the matrimonial beliefs of Indians. Many restrictions on child marriage, widow-marriage, marriage within own caste etc. were affecting the marital status at that time. Today all these restrictions have been eased due to the influence of Christianity. Now inter-caste marriages are being recognized along with ex-caste marriages. The enactments of the constitution have made this even more accessible. Widow marriage is getting recognition. Child marriage is banned! The practice of Sati has also ended. Even matrimonial beliefs have changed. Today, the wife is playing an important role in the family responsibility by joining the husband shoulder to shoulder by becoming a colleague, friend. This can be called the effect of humanity.

(8) Christian influence has also changed the way of living, dress, food, behavior etc. of the people. The influence of western culture and the spread of western education have affected the major aspects of Hindu culture. Even the primary relationships have changed. Today people's life has become full of artificiality. Today material comforts have become dominant. .

Thus Christianity has greatly influenced Indian society and culture. But the basic features of Indian culture and society are present even today. As Indian culture has been characterized by its assimilation into other culture, on the same basis it has integrated the characteristics of external culture into itself. Yet it is clearly showing its image. Apart from this, it can be said that Indian society has adopted the superiority and characteristics of Christianity, as well as Christianity with its own merits has affected.