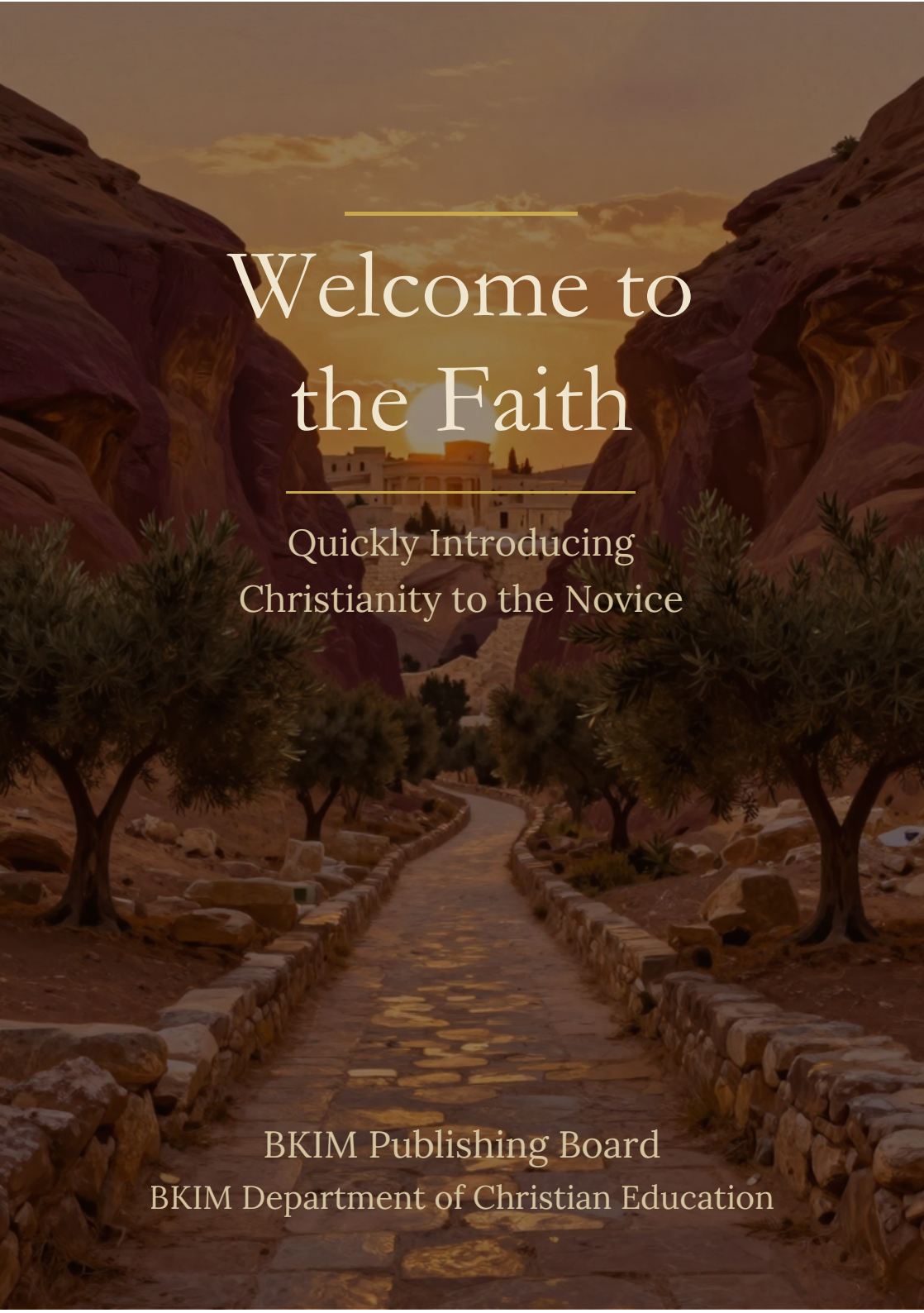




Welcome to the Faith

Quickly Introducing
Christianity to the Novice

BKIM Publishing Board
BKIM Department of Christian Education

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Introduction

After seeing the title of this booklet, you may have begun to wonder why you're being called a "novice." Well, biblically speaking and going into the ancient Greek manuscripts for the New Testament, you—like all the newest believers in the Lord Jesus Christ—have been called a "novice" because you are a "recent convert." And, due to this recentness, you definitely will need to be introduced to what Christianity is! Even then, you might be a long-time believer who still lacks a quick introduction to the faith—further necessitating the importance of being a reader.



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God that brings
salvation to everyone who believes."

— Romans 1:16

Christianity Defined

Christianity is—for academic purposes—a religion. Biblically, it is both a religion and a relationship. It is the structured mode by which humanity can take up their cross as a part of Christ's Church—which comes from the ancient Greek manuscripts as an "assembly with a chief legislative authority" whilst also being a "movement." It is also the one, and only true pathway for people to embrace God in reciprocity as His adopted, spiritual children by Christ's finished work on the cross (because Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life)!

For all intents and purposes, Christianity is the group which all believers in Jesus identify with; it is the relationship which all believers claim to have in Jesus in order to be one with Him and the Father; and it is the vessel by which Father God uses for allowing all of humanity to know the undeniable Truth about Himself, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Christianity is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies from Genesis 3:15 to the end of Malachi. Humanity had fallen, and salvation will come through the Jews. This has been easily witnessed in the entirety of the New Testament (and only through Jesus)!

Even though Jews and those of us who are not Jewish—or Gentiles—were presented with this, and though the Bible says the Jews will be blinded until our time is fulfilled by all getting to know about the fullness of God's promise from Genesis 3:15 to the very present times; we stand with complete belief that God is continuing to work with the Jews also (even though there is One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism). This is because God is drawing everyone back to His complete reality in Jesus Christ, His Son!



Who are God and Jesus

Having acquired a quick introduction to Christianity and its beginnings, you might then wonder why we say God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; and why we also sometimes say Father God and Jesus, or simply God and Jesus. Honestly? God and Jesus are the same, because Jesus is God. However, Jesus is not the Father, He is not the Son, and He is not the Holy Spirit! In the Bible, the Person we usually call "God" is the Father. He is the Primary and Uncreated Source of Everything. From Him, outside of the bounds of time and space, He eternally beget Jesus and eternally processed the Holy Spirit while maintaining that These Persons are Co-Equal, Co-Eternal, and Co-Everything with Him! This is a mystery, but it has been revealed easily during the baptism of Jesus, and when Jesus also prayed before His crucifixion.

When Jesus was baptized, the Father's voice spoke and the Spirit descended as a dove. When Jesus was praying, He was obviously not praying to Himself because it would mean the God we serve would have a multi-personality disorder.

Simply putting it, the Father is the Source, the Son is the Tangible Example and Savior of the Invisible Source, and the Spirit is the Express Power of the Father and the Son manifested in the life of the believer! And, These Three are One as Deuteronomy teaches (with the understanding that "one" in the ancient Hebrew manuscripts was a composite oneness, being made of multiple things—and not a unitarian oneness as many Jews and even other Christians believe).



Why the Church

Knowing about Christianity, and a little bit about the confusing yet awesome nature of God, you might then wonder—if this is a religion (and if the New Testament also says there is a difference between true religion and the "vain" or "bad" religion that many other Christians use as a catch-all term to hate the word "religion" or "religious") and if this is also a relationship; and if the Church is a movement and an assembly; why should you consider visiting and joining someone's local church? Isn't the Church as a whole enough?

Simply responding, the answer is: no! Everyone must be connected to a local church because those are God's visible instruments for the assembly and the movement. If you simply use the internet and also open up your Bible as instructed by a preacher (minister, elder, pastor, overseer, bishop, or apostle), you can also see the Bible forbids forsaking assembling together; it also forbids being disorderly. The Bible endorses assembling together, because since the Old Testament times, gathering corporately for worship and instruction is super important! How can people hear God's word, especially without a God-sent shepherd? We are all commanded to gather, and they are commanded to lead us!

No local church is perfect, but neither are those of us who make up the Church as a whole! Nonetheless, we must gather and grow together as one people because God—of course in the Person of Jesus Christ—established His Church, and the Church is His Bride. Rejecting the Bride is to insult the Bridegroom, and also insult any woman by stating that because of her imperfections, she isn't worthy of anything beyond the bare minimum of lip-service and admiration from afar.



"And let us not neglect our meeting together." —Hebrews 10:25

