



# EQUIPPED

Sharing your faith in a complex world

In order to compare world religions, it is best to be fully informed on what we believe before considering the beliefs of others.



God

Jesus

Salvation

Eternity

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended to hell; the third day rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father almighty; from whence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

“I believe in God, the Father  
almighty,”

Personal, Father, 1st person of  
the Trinity

“And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!””  
(Galatians 4:6, CSB)

“Creator of heaven and earth”

God - Powerful, Uncaused  
Cause, Pre-eminent, Creator,  
Creative



“In the beginning God created  
the heavens and the earth.”  
(Genesis 1:1, CSB)



“And in Jesus Christ, his only  
Son, our Lord,”

Sonship

same Substance/essence, position  
of authority, relationship of  
submission to the father

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,”

(Colossians 1:15–19, CSB)

“Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,”

Fully human, yet sinless in nature and practice

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.”

(Hebrews 4:15, CSB)



“suffered under Pontius  
Pilate,”

Historical and Physical

“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, God’s word came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.”

(Luke 3:1–2, CSB)

“was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended to hell; the third day he rose again from the dead.”

Salvation - The Gospel, plain and simple

“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

(1 Corinthians 15:3–4, CSB)



“He ascended to heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of  
the Father almighty; from  
whence he will come to  
judge the living and the  
dead.”

Eternity – Judgement for all

“After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.””

(Acts 1:9–11, CSB)

“I believe in the Holy Spirit,”

God - Third person of the

**Trinity**, same essence as the

Father and Son, Co-equal,

One God

“For through him (Jesus)  
we both have access in one  
spirit to the Father.”

(Ephesians 2:18, CSB)

“the holy catholic Church,”

One, Universal Church

expressed in many individual

congregations

“Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matthew 16:17–18, CSB)

“He is also the head of the body, the church... (Colossians 1:18a, CSB)

“the communion of saints,”  
Christianity is a community  
faith, not an individualistic  
one

“For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.”

(1 Corinthians 12:12–13, CSB)



“the forgiveness of sins,”

Salvation - forgiveness vs.  
works to earn righteousness

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

(1 John 1:9, CSB)

“the resurrection of the  
body and the life  
everlasting.”

Eternity - physical life that  
lasts forever, either in the  
presence of God or outside  
of his presence

“Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, “There is no resurrection of the dead”? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.”

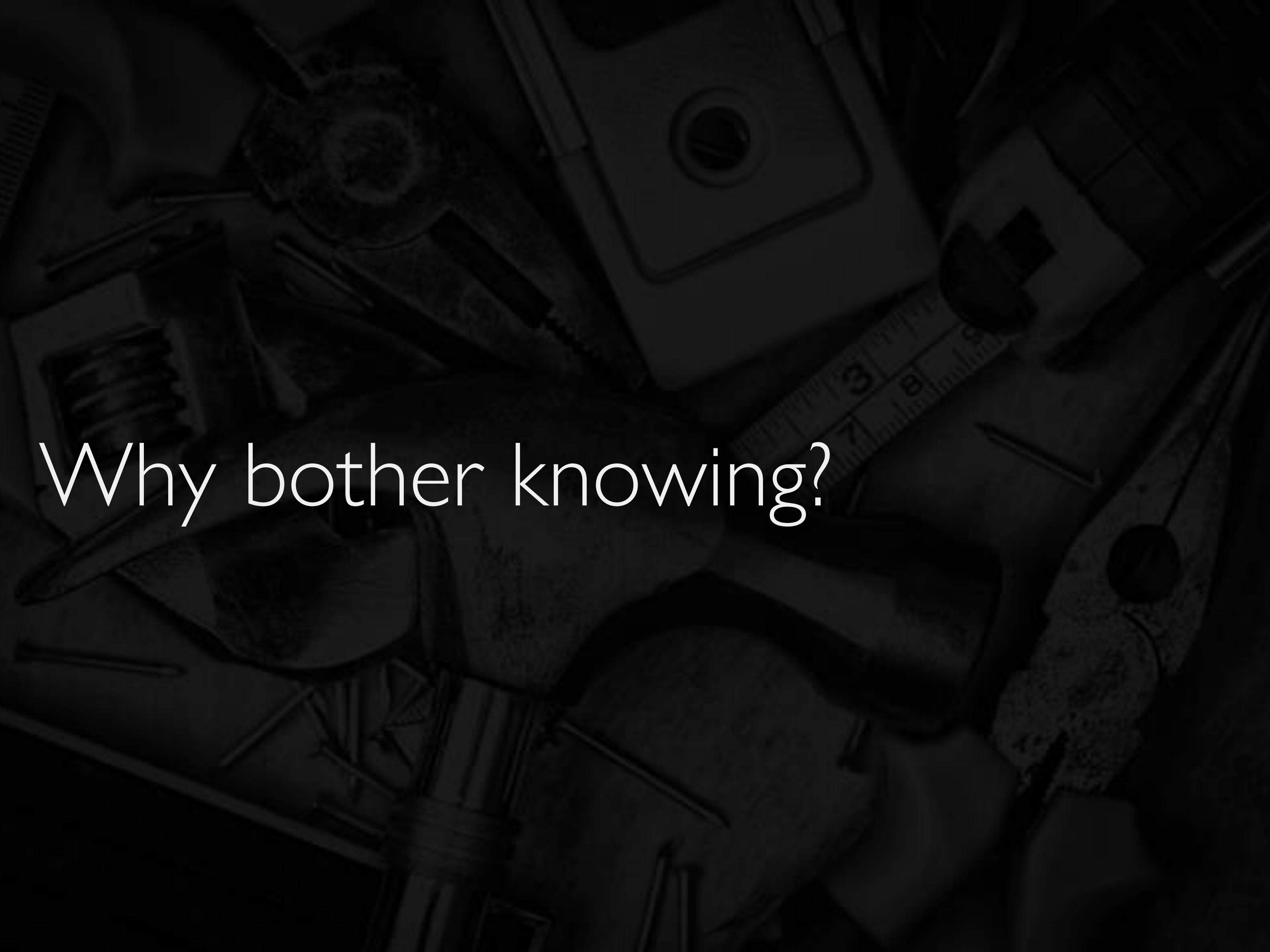
(1 Corinthians 15:12–14, CSB)

“Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

(John 5:28–29, CSB)



Amen.



Why bother knowing?

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

(John 20:30–31, CSB)



“But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

(John 20:31, CSB)

It's not about being "right" or  
defeating someone in an argument,

It's about eternity.

Memorize John 20:31

Share the fact that you are a believer with someone you have never told before.

Ask others questions about their faith and beliefs

“But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

(John 20:31, CSB)