

The living Religion of Christianity is not only a belief in God but encompassed various other aspects such as rituals, sacred texts, prayer, ethical guidelines & particular ~~part~~ people with ~~pe~~ great significance. These elements of Christianity mostly derive from the example of Jesus. Through the following in Jesus footsteps "all who know that you are my disciples" & this is "if you have love for one another" which was modeled by Jesus. In particular the ~~pr~~ practice of Baptism which ~~the~~ is the acceptance of the Christian community & faith & also the ethical guidelines the Christian faith provides can have a profound impact on the Christian community & adherents.

Baptism is a sign of new life through Jesus. It dates back to the early Judaic ritual of cleansing through water & also the Baptism of Jesus through John the Baptist. When

an adherent is baptised they become connected to the long history of baptism before them.

When a candidate is baptised they are cleansed of their sin. This is represented by the use of water as a cleanser. Examples of the purifying use of water can be dated back to the old testament with the parting of the red sea & Noah's ark. In many orthodox churches the candidate is fully immersed in water which can be interpreted as being reborn of the new womb. Through this the Christian is seen to be sharing in the life, death & resurrection of Jesus, one of the principal beliefs of Christianity. Because the candidate is newly cleansed of sin they are free to "have love for one another" as a member of the Christian community.

The anointing with oil is often the symbol of being set aside for

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a particular role as seen by the anointing of Saul. In this particular case of baptism the job set aside for the Christian is to follow the footsteps of Jesus & "make disciples of all nations. By carrying out this job God will "know" that you are my disciples". The Christian will now have the job to serve God & to love each of the other people in the Christian community.

Ethics provided to the Christian community for their individuals to seek guidance from are developed from things such as the bible, in particular the new testament, the 10 commandments, the beatitudes & also authoritative figures such as the pope. The ethical principles to do with <sup>bio</sup>ethics derived from these sources include sanctity of life, stewardship of life care & compassion as modeled by Jesus, & the golden rule, "love one another". Following these ethical principles & making ethical decisions based upon them can have a great impact on an individual life & also the community in which they live. The adherence to these principles can often mean you are "showing love for one another" & therefore being a disciple of God.

In particular the area of bioethics which is all ethics to do with

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life, can have a dramatic impact on the life of adherents.

In the area of euthanasia Christians do not believe is it ethical behaviour because the 5th commandment states "thou shall not kill". Christians believe that in the time before death is the most spiritual time for the individual & therefore life must be prolonged so they can experience the further spirituality of God.

Also by killing another human you are disregarding the sanctity of life & are therefore not loving God & in turn not ~~loving~~ having love for one another. Measures must taken to prolong life for as long as possible.

Christians also believe in hope.

Even though death may be inmanent Christians should still hold out hope of survival.

Religion can effects the lives of adherents & ~~individuals~~ communities

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in many ways, especially in way of baptism & ethical guidance in Christianity. Through the adherence of the teachings & the ritual of Baptism God can "know that you are my disciples".