

# THE NATURE OF GOD

## Christianity Beliefs & Teachings

### Key terms:

**Catholic:** A branch of Christianity based in Rome and led by the Pope

**Orthodox:** A branch of Christianity mainly based in Eastern Europe

**Protestant:** A branch of Christianity split from the Catholic Church in the 1500s, which believes the Bible is the only authority for Christians

**Denomination:** Groups within the Christian faith with their own organisation and traditions

### Key Facts

- Christianity is the largest religion on Earth
- Around 1 in 3 of the world's population is Christian
- Beginning as a small movement based around the idea of Jesus being the Son of God who came to Earth around 2000 years ago, Christianity became a major world faith after being adopted by the Roman Empire in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century
- The largest three branches of Christianity are Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant

In the Bible it says...

'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.'

Exodus 20:2-3

### Beliefs about the nature of God

All Christians agree that there is only **one** true God, and that to worship any other thing or person as a God is a very grave offense.

God is often referred to as "he" and "**Father**", and has traditional masculine characteristics such as power and strength.

However, God is not seen as being a man in the sense of a human male, and possesses other characteristics like care, gentleness and love, which in Biblical times would have been more associated with women.

While artwork has sometimes depicted God as a humanoid figure, Christians believe that God is a '**spirit**' (John 4:24)

### Past Exam Questions

**Specimen** Give two qualities that Christians believe describe the nature of God. [2 marks]

**2018** Which of the following is the meaning of the term "Omnipotent"? [1 mark]

**2021** For Christians, it is impossible to understand God. [12 marks]

### Possible Questions

### The belief in the nature of God Influences...

- **influences** Christians to never worship any other God or figure, to avoid compromising his "oneness"
- **Influences** Christians to have **faith** in comfort in God's ability to save them from evil, since he is powerful and strong
- **Comforts** them by knowing God is loving and caring, and so will therefore help those who deserve it and forgive sin if repentance is authentic
- **Influences** them to try to mirror the best of Gods qualities; while they will never be able to be *like* God, they can take inspiration from his example, and be as strong, loving and caring as possible in their own lives.