



Sacred Order of Living Paganism
Lesson Outline
Shanddaramon
Level One Class TwentySeven: Christianity

Preparation

Questions to consider:

- What are the basic theological principles of Christianity?
- How does Christianity compare with Paganism?
- How does Christianity contrast with Paganism?

Study:

Christianity

Activity:

Attend a Christian service

Recommended Reading:

- The Bible
- The Five Gospels by Robert W. Funk and Roy W. Hoover
- The Jesus Mysteries by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy
- Jesus and The Lost Goddess by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy
- Pagans and Christians by Gus DiZerega
- Christianity: A Very Short Introduction by Linda Woodhead

Follow-Up

Christianity

Prophet: Jesus

Main Text: The New Testament

Teachings:

There is one eternal god who created humans with free will

Jesus was a man incarnate of god brought to deliver the people from the burden of the original sin.

Main text is the New Testament of the Bible especially the four gospels: Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John. First book Mark written around 70 ce

Paul was the main spokesperson for the early religion

Jesus saw social barriers as an affront to the compassion of God

used parables for common understanding

- love your enemies

- turn the other cheek

- all are righteous whether just or unjust

- to be carefree

- those who are meek, merciful, and pure in heart can be happy

two greatest facts

- God possesses overwhelming love for humanity

- people must accept and spread that love

the Kingdom of God was inner love and joy brought about by the destruction of

- fear, guilt, and the ego self

Teachings of the Gospel of Thomas

(a gnostic text pre-dating the four gospels)

If heaven is in the sky, then the birds are closer to it than man. If heaven is in the sea, the fish are closer. Heaven is within and without you.

Teach those who will listen and be silent to those who will not.

The largest truth comes from the smallest seed

See your own faults before calling on those of others

Let your light shine upon others

A person cannot serve two masters

Faith can move mountains

the Beatitudes:

- blessed are the poor in spirit

- blessed are those who grieve

- blessed are the gentle

- blessed are those who hunger for justice

- blessed are the merciful

- blessed are those with pure hearts

- blessed are those who work for peace

- blessed are those who suffer for justice

- blessed are those who are persecuted because of their belief

Three tenets of Catholicism (developed after 325 CE)

Incarnation - Jesus is both man and God

Atonement - redemption of original sin

Trinity - God is three-in-one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Seven sacraments

baptism, confirmation, matrimony or orders, last rite, confession, Mass

Christianity as Hebrew Mysticism

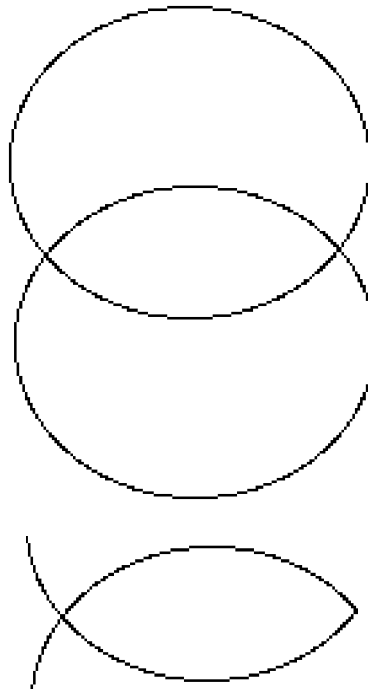
Four sided cross seen as representation of the four elements
also represented by the tetragrammaton:

Yod-He-Vah-He (Jehovah)

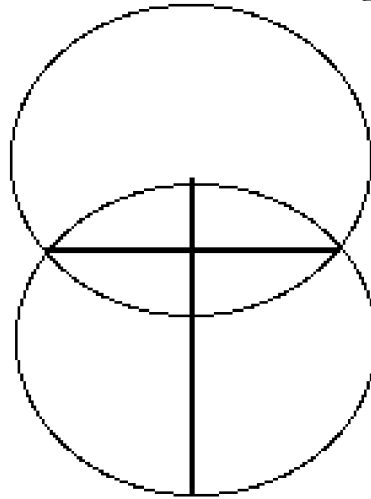
The pentagram represented the five wounds of Christ and the addition of Spirit (Shin) to the four elements represented by the Tetragrammaton:

Yod - He - Shin - Va - He (Yeheshua)

The symbol of the Fish represented the union of spiritual matters to spiritual and signified the beginning of the age of Pisces.



The elongated cross can be derived from the double circle through the golden mean.



The symbol can also be related to the joining of the vertical male with the horizontal female symbol.