

## Category 1 – Introduction to Christianity

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6. 内容提要：本书是“宗教文化丛书”之一。作者在“自序”中写道：基督教是世界上信徒人数最多、传播地区最广、社会影响最大的宗教。近 2000 年来，它作为一种社会上层建筑，深入到人类社会的每一个角落，在各方面都留下了自己的烙印。有人说，西方文化在某种程度上就是基督教文化，这不是没有道理的。因为从中世纪起，基督教神学就统治了西欧，成为欧洲文化的主要精神支柱。西方人浓厚的宗教意识与心态，不论是对内的自省还是对外的开拓，都可以在基督教中找到根源。直到现在，它仍然支配着全世界约 15 亿基督徒的精神生活，并在不同程度上影响着广大非基督徒的社会生活。此外，从 19 世纪下半叶起，基督教在我国也逐渐发挥着不可忽视的作用，目前，这种作用有增无已。然而，近几十年来，我们却忽视了从文化知识方面对基督教进行研究与介绍，致使大部分人对它一知半解，甚至一无所知，特别是青年人更是如此。我国的改革开放政策正在逐步深化。我们的任务之一是面向世界，面向世界就需要了解世界，要了解西方文化，也需要了解基督教，掌握一些关于基督教的基本知识。为了这个缘故，也仅仅是为了这个缘故，我们才编写了这本小册子。基督教是个“庞然大物”，需要介绍的方面很多，不可能全部涉及，只能挑选一些我们认为重要和普遍的问题向读者介绍。这当然带有一定的盲目性，将来如有机会，我们将加以补充，俾使读者能够尽可能详细地了解基督教的全貌。作者在全书中写了 100 个问题，内容涉及《圣经》、

天主教、东正教、基督新教、中国基督教等方面。

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5. Authors' Profile : Yue Feng was born in Hongdong, Shanxi in 1928. He graduated from the Beijing Institute of Foreign Languages in 1953. He is the Associate Researcher at the Division of Christian Studies of the Department of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Science and Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Religious Studies, at the Department of Philosophy, Beijing University. His major translated works include *An Encyclopaedia on USSR Philosophy* (Section on Religion), *A History of Religion*, *A History of Philosophy*, *Materialistic Dialectics*, etc. He has also co-authored *A History of Religion*.

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6. Précis: This book is part of the *Religious Culture Series*. In the preface, the authors write: 'Christianity is a religion that has the most followers in the world, has been spread to the most places, and has exerted the greatest influence in the society. For almost 2000 years, it has made its way into every aspect of the society, leaving its impact detectable everywhere. It has been said that the Western culture is in a sense the Christian culture. There is a grain of truth in such a statement. Since the Middle Ages, Christian theology has reigned in the Western Europe as the pillar of its culture. The Westerners' profound sense of religiosity, both in terms of inner reflection and missionary outreach, can be traced back to Christianity. Today, it is still controlling the spiritual life of 1.5 billion Christians and exerting enormous influence on the social life of non-Christians. Since the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Christianity has made its way into China. Its growing influence can still be felt today. However, the studies and introduction of Christianity from the cultural and intellectual perspectives have been neglected, resulting in our general unfamiliarity with or even ignorance of this religion, especially among the younger generation. As China is opening itself up to the world, we need a better understanding of the world, and to do so requires an understanding of the Western culture, which in turn requires an understanding of Christianity. This is also why we published this book. Introducing Christianity is an immense task that covers a rather extensive scope. We could only select some of the topics that we thought were important and general. Some topics have certainly been left out, and we hope to include them in the future edition of the book. The authors present the materials in the forms of 100 questions. The topics covered include 'The Bible,' 'Roman Catholicism,' 'Greek Orthodox,' 'Protestantism,' and Christianity in China, etc.