Benjamin Ramirez

Period 3

AP English Literature

Senior Project

Christianity and Catholicism

Since the beginning of the human race, religions have been an essential way of living across the globe from primitive civilizations such as Africa to more modernized civilizations such as the United States. In the United States, there are many religions such as Pentecostalism and Catholicism to Mormonism and Jehovah Witness. These religions are prominent across the country as many of the religions that are in America have been brought here during immigration periods such as the founding of America by the pilgrims in which they brought Christianity from Europe. Other examples may include Buddhism in which many immigrants from Asia have brought along with them and influenced them to other people. Within America, the two major religions that are practiced everyday by millions of people are Pentecostalism and Catholicism.

Pentecostalism is one of the many branches of Christianity in which the believers are monotheistic. Pentecostal believers believe that, “God sent his own and only Son (Jesus) that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16. Jesus’ blood is symbolic to the believers because in the Old Testament in the Bible, in order to have your sins forgiven, you had to sacrifice a lamb that was pure and without blemish. Jesus, in the New Testament was that Lamb of God in which he was without blemish or sin. He was pure and was the perfect sacrifice for our sins, that they may be forgiven. Pentecostal believes also believe in the Holy Spirit and that you are able to directly to God. When Pentecostal believers pray, they pray to God directly as you would be talking to a friend and they pray through Jesus’ name as he is our intercessor Hebrews 7:25. One belief that is essential to the Pentecostal faith is communion. Communion is when you take of the bread of life which symbolizes Jesus body that died on the cross while the wine symbolizes Jesus blood that was shed for our sins on calvary. Before you take of the bread and the fruit of the vine, you are supposed to examine yourself of what you have done and while you take of the bread and the cup, you need to remember what Jesus did for you on the cross. Other beliefs that Pentecostal believers believe in is the spiritual gifts that the Father has given to his believers; prophecy, speaking in tongues and divine healing. Not each believer is gifted with every one of these gifts but we are able to receive them if we pray for them. Some have the spiritual ability to prophesy on others and reveal to them revelations from the Holy Spirit while others have the spiritual gift of healing or speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues is a term in which the Holy Spirit has enabled you to speak in a language that is only understandable between you and God, or in other words, your own personal language which no one else can understand unless they have the gift of interpreting that language. Others have divine healing in which God has given them the ability to heal others of sickness and disease but it’s not the person healing them, it is God’s manifestation that they are able to be healed. The Pentecostal faith is one that millions of human beings believe in, not only in America but across the globe, and one key belief that the Pentecostal believers believe in is that it is not about religion, it is about your relationship with God.

Unlike Pentecostalism, Catholic believers have views that differentiate from the Pentecostal believers. The Catholic faith believes that you have to confess your sins to the priest. The priest, in the Catholic faith, is the link to God in which you have to go before the priest in order to confess. Other beliefs the Catholic faith has is that they worship the Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mary is the one that bore Jesus and Catholics belief that she is worthy of praise for bearing their Savior Jesus. She is seen in many Mosaic windows in many churches throughout the world and she is also a prominent figure that appears in many statutes that are displayed in front of many Catholic churches.

Many religions are practiced by millions upon millions of people around the world. Many religions have been practiced for centuries while some have been practice for millenniums. Such religions such as Pentecostalism and Catholicism have influenced millions of Americans as they go on their daily lives worshiping and praising God for what he has done for them and for who he is, their Savior. Pentecostal believers as well as Catholics gather each Sunday which is known as the Sabbath Day, to worship their one true God, regardless of religion.

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