

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION TO COMMON WORDS AND SYMBOLS

Word/Symbol	Origin/Source	Meaning
A.D.	Venerable Bede in England, A.D. 731	<i>Anno Domini</i> : in the year of our Lord (Christ) after his birth
B.C.	England, 17th cent.	Before the birth of Christ
Cathedral	<i>Cathedra</i> (a seat in Latin)	Church of a bishop's seat
Cemetery	<i>Koimeterion</i> (in Greek literature, a sleeping place, a dormitory)	For Christians a temporary sleeping place for the dead
Chapel	<i>Capella</i> (Latin, 12th cent., France)	Secondary sanctuary for Christian worship
Christen	Medieval English; the act of giving persons their given (Christian) names at baptism	A synonym for Christian baptism; more recently also used for naming of ships and planes
Christian	Coined in Antioch (Acts 11:26), ca. A.D. 40-60	Someone who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
Christmas (evergreen) tree	Reportedly introduced by Martin Luther, 1530s	Signifies Christ's birth as the Tree of Life
Church	<i>Kyriakos</i> (in Greek a house belonging to a lord)	A building for divine services and synonym for Christianity
Creed	<i>Credo</i> (Latin for "I believe")	A formal statement of beliefs, especially Christian doctrine
Cross	Instrument of Roman execution for noncitizens and slaves	Symbol of Christ's death and identity symbol of Christians
Heaven	<i>Shemayin</i> (biblical Hebrew); <i>Ouranos</i> (New Testament Greek)	The abode of God and the angels, also of those who die believing in Christ
Hell	<i>Sheol</i> (biblical Hebrew); <i>Gehenna/Hades</i> (New Testament Greek)	Place of eternal torment for those who die without Christ (Matthew 10:28)
Heresy	<i>Hairesis</i> (a faction in Greek)	A teaching that denies basic Christian doctrine(s); more recently also a teaching contrary to accepted beliefs in secular areas of knowledge
Martyr	<i>Martyr</i> (in Greek a witness)	A Christian persecuted or executed for witnessing to his faith, more recently also someone who dies for a cause
Pagan	<i>Paganus</i> (in Latin a rustic, rural person)	A non-Christian or unbeliever
Parish	<i>Paroikia</i> (in Greek a side-house dwelling)	A geographic area of church members, also a Christian congregation
Pastor	<i>Poimaen</i> ("shepherd" in Greek; spiritual shepherd in the New Testament)	The spiritual head (shepherd) of a group of Christians
Santa Claus	St. Nicholas (a Christian saint of the 6th cent.)	White-bearded man in a red suit who brings gifts at Christmastime
Trinity	<i>Trias</i> (Greek word for numeral three)	God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, more recently also any threefold phenomenon