

Childhood Faith ----- Mature Faith

Either/Or. Black/White thinking

Both/And thinking; Paradoxes, doubts & gray areas are OK, perhaps even welcome

Static

Dynamic

Christian or not Christian?

On a journey w/Jesus & others?

Belief or unbelief

Ongoing, evolving, complex, volatile *relationship* with God

Doctrines to accept or reject

Stories, ideas, images, experiences, & feelings that transform, comfort, & challenge in different ways at different times through life

Christianity = Rules that guide

Christianity = Love that liberates

Literal interpretation of the Bible

Willingness to see broad themes, context, symbolism, & ambiguity in scripture. Reading through "the lens of Christ." Admitting own biases.

Some people are sinners, judged by God

All are sinners, under God's judgment & grace

Hell is a place God sends us, after we die, if we behave badly

Separation from God, neighbor, community, & creation = hell. Hell can be past, present or future.

Heaven is a place God sends us, after we die, if we behave ourselves

Reconciliation with God, neighbor, community, & creation = heaven. Heaven can be past, present, future.

God protects the good and punishes the bad

Bad things happen to everybody and when anyone suffers, God suffers w/us

God is an old *man* in the sky

God is spirit; transcendent & immanent; mystery

Faith as particular religious ideas & feelings

Faith as comprehensive "way" of being