

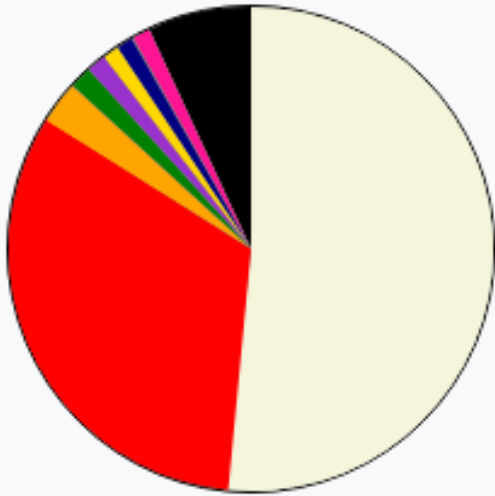
# Dimensions of the *Cross*

Christ Empowers Me



# 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

- Christ was crucified for our sins
- Christ died and was buried
- Christ was resurrected back to life
- Christ appeared to hundreds of people as evidence of His divinity



Religion in New Zealand  
(2023)<sup>[1]</sup>


- No religion (51.6%)
- Christianity (32.3%)
- Hinduism (2.90%)
- Islam (1.50%)
- Māori Indigenous (1.30%)
- Buddhism (1.10%)
- Sikhism (1.10%)
- Judaism (0.10%)
- Other Religions (1.20%)
- Religion not stated (6.90%)

According to the 2023 Census, 51.6% of New Zealanders reject any form of religion and so also reject the claims of Christianity.

Jesus is fully God, and he came into this world and became fully human, motivated by love, to rescue us through his sacrificial death.

We need to be rescued because we are born with a sin nature that leads to a life of selfishness and rebellion against our Creator God. We can't rescue ourselves.

God in his grace accepted the death of Jesus as payment for our sin. He raised Jesus from the dead to confirm His divinity and our salvation.



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## **Romans 1:16 (NIV-UK)**

*<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

*“and last of all,  
as to one untimely born,  
He appeared to me also.”*

## **Ephesians 1:15-20a (NIV-UK)**

*<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead*

## **Back to Life**

*I won't forget the moment  
I heard You call my name  
Out of the grip of darkness  
Into the light of grace  
Just like Lazarus  
Oh, You brought me back to life*

(Bethel Music, Zahriya Zachary)

## **Back to Life**

*And where there was dead religion  
Now there is living faith  
All of my hope and freedom  
I found in Jesus' name  
Just like Lazarus  
Oh, You brought me back to life*

## **Back to Life**

*No longer I who live, but Christ in me*

*For I've been born again, my heart is free*

*The hope of Heaven before me, the grave behind*

*Hallelujah, You brought me back to life*

## **Ephesians 1:17-20a (NIV-UK)**

*<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead*