

## Early Christianity and Rome

When Christianity first spread throughout the Roman Empire it caused concern among the Romans who periodically persecuted the Christians.

**allowed  
martyrs  
sacrifices**

**burnt  
monotheistic  
torture**

**crucifixion  
persecuted  
true**

**disciples  
polytheistic  
worship**

In about 30 A.D. a Roman governor ordered the death of Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_, which means being nailed to a cross. However, followers of Jesus, called \_\_\_\_\_, spread his teachings throughout the Roman Empire. As Christianity spread, some Roman leaders disapproved and \_\_\_\_\_, or punished, Christians for their beliefs.

Persecution of Christians began mostly because the Christians refused to \_\_\_\_\_ the Roman gods. The Romans were \_\_\_\_\_, which meant they believed in many gods. They \_\_\_\_\_ other people to worship whatever gods they wanted so long as they also honored the Roman gods by offering \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

The Christians, however, were \_\_\_\_\_, which meant they believed there was only one \_\_\_\_\_ god. They refused to acknowledge the Roman gods even when threatened with \_\_\_\_\_ and death.

When Christians were killed for refusing to worship the Roman gods, they became \_\_\_\_\_. One famous martyr was Polycarp a bishop from Asia Minor. The Roman governor asked him many times to give up his beliefs but each time Polycarp refused until finally he was \_\_\_\_\_  
alive.

