

How to Become a Christian

Three questions should interest everyone:

- 1) What is a Christian?
- 2) Why become a Christian?
- 3) How do I become a Christian?

As always, God's Word (The Bible), has very clear and easy to understand answers to these questions.

1) What is a Christian?

The word "Christian" literally means, "belonging to the party of Jesus Christ" or, a "follower of Jesus Christ."

Therefore, a Christian is simply a person who believes in, and obediently follows Jesus Christ.

This means: a non-Christian turns and puts their belief and dependence in Jesus Christ alone for all their spiritual resources, beginning with forgiveness of their sin that separates them from God. They now live to obey and please Jesus Christ as their Lord (Master) in all areas of life.

2) Why should I become a Christian?

- a. **Because you are sinful, and it is your sin that separates you from God; *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*** (Romans 3:23) and are therefore worthy of judgment from God, *...For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 6:23)

What is sin? It is:

- To miss the mark
- To act outside of God's holy character
- To violate God's law

- b. **Because God's law has made you aware of your sin: ...through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law... This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...** (Romans 3:20-22).

Even if we consider only 5 of God's laws, we see our guilt:

- You shall have no other gods before me
- You shall not murder (*Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him* (1 John 3:15))
- You shall not commit adultery (*I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart* (Mat 5:28))
- You shall not steal
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour (Exodus 20:3-16)

How to Become a Christian

Even if you have only broken one of God's laws, you are a law breaker (sinner).

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it (James 2:10).

- c. **Because your sin condemns you** as a guilty law breaker before Holy God, the only appropriate reward is judgment and death.

The soul who sins is the one who will die... (Ezekiel 18:20)

"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. (Luke 12:4-5)

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur..." (Revelation 21:8)

- d. **Because ONLY Jesus Christ has died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin.**

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

God made him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us... (2 Corinthians 5:21)

He (Jesus) himself bore our sins in His body on the tree... (1 Peter 2:24)

- e. **Because God has provided only 1 way** in which you can escape the inevitable, inescapable judgment for sin; *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (John 14:6).

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

- f. **Because God wants you:** *...God our Saviour ...wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men...* (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

How to Become a Christian

3) How do I become a Christian?

3

As with many changes in life, becoming a Christian involves a choice. A decision, that, when acted upon, will bring about a change in your relationship with God and your identity.

The move from unbelief to belief takes place as you activate the faith placed in your heart by the Spirit of God. That act of your will expresses itself through a humble attitude toward the holy God that you have offended with your sin.

- a. **Confess:** Say the same thing about your sin as God says. Admit that your sin rightly incurs the death penalty. Then, confess Jesus as your Lord from this point onwards.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

- b. **Believe in Jesus Christ (Repent):**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Acts 3:19).

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:16-18).

Moving on:

If you have spoken to God, agreeing with Him about your sin, accepting that Jesus Christ has already paid the penalty for your sin, and turned from living for yourself to living for the Lord Jesus Christ, we would encourage you to continue studying through this series of lessons. Start with the lesson entitled "Welcome to life in Jesus Christ".