

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

**Admit your sinful ways and desire to turn from them and be delivered from the judgment they bring.**

Romans 3:10,23 (KJV)

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Acts 3:19 (KJV)

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**Acknowledge what Christ did for sinners on the cross, which was confirmed by His resurrection from the dead.**

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 11:25 (KJV)

Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

**Receive Him as the only means of eternal life.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 1:12 (KJV)

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 6:40 (ESV)

**And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

**Appropriate His rightful claim as Lord of your life.**

Romans 10:9 (KJV)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Philippians 2:10-11 (KJV)

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Pray the Sinner's Prayer.**

*Holy God, be merciful to me: a sinner. Please forgive me. I want Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. I believe He lived a sinless life, died upon the cross in payment of my sins, and conquered death so that I could have eternal life. Help me to live for You from this day forward. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NOW WHAT?

If you have just prayed to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, praise the Lord! Please let us know!

**Share with others what Jesus has done for you.**

Romans 10:13-14 (KJV)

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

**Begin to live for God.**

Romans 12:1-2,9-18 (KJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. ... Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

**Publicly profess your faith by being baptized.**

Luke 3:21 (KJV)

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

Romans 6:4 (KJV)

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Join a local Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church and get to know God better through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other Christians.**

Romans 15:4-6 (KJV)

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION: “BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”**

With that brief question (Matthew 16:15), Jesus Christ confronted His followers with the most important issue they would ever face. He had spent much time with them and made some bold claims about His identity and authority. Now the time had come for them either to believe or deny His teachings.

Who do you say Jesus is? Your response to Him will determine not only your values and lifestyle, but your eternal destiny as well. Consider what the Bible says about Him.

### **JESUS IS GOD**

While Jesus was on earth there was much confusion about who He was. Some thought He was a wise man or a great prophet. Others thought He was a madman. Still others couldn't decide or didn't care. But Jesus said, "**I and the Father are one**" (John 10:30). That means, He claimed to be nothing less than God in human flesh.

Many people today don't understand that Jesus claimed to be God. They're content to think of Him as little more than a great moral teacher. But even His enemies understood His claims to deity. That's why they tried to stone Him to death (John 5:18; 10:33) and eventually had Him crucified (John 19:7).

C.S. Lewis observed, "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (Mere Christianity [Macmillan, 1952], pp. 40-41).

If the biblical claims of Jesus are true, He is God!

### **JESUS IS HOLY**

God is absolutely and perfectly holy: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3), therefore He cannot commit or approve of evil.

James 1:13 (KJV)  
Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

As God, Jesus embodied every element of God's character. Colossians 2:9 says, "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." He was perfectly holy.

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)  
For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

God requires holiness of us as well. "You shall be holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

### **JESUS IS THE SAVIOR**

Our failure to obey God – to be holy – places us in danger of eternal punishment.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (KJV)  
Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

The truth is, we cannot obey Him because we have neither the desire nor the ability to do so. We are by nature rebellious toward God.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (KJV)  
And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

The Bible calls our rebellion "sin." According to Scripture, everyone is guilty of sin: "for there is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46). "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). And we are incapable of changing our sinful condition. Jeremiah 13:23 says, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil."

That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. We might even be involved in various religious or humanitarian activities. But we're utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own.

Romans 3:10-12 (KJV)  
As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death: "The soul who sins will die" (Ezekiel 18:4). That's hard for us to understand because we tend to evaluate sin on a relative scale, assuming some sins are less serious than others. However, the Bible teaches that all acts of sin are the result of sinful thinking and evil desires. That's why simply changing our patterns of behavior can't solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences. We need to be changed inwardly so our thinking and desires are holy.

Jesus is the only one who can forgive and transform us, thereby delivering us from the power and penalty of sin: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior, who paid the penalty and died for sinners: "Christ...died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Christ's death satisfied the demands of God's justice, thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him (Romans 3:26). John 3:16 says, "**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**" He alone is "our great God and Savior" (Titus 2:13).

### **JESUS IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE OBJECT OF SAVING FAITH**

Some people think it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere. But without a valid object your faith is useless.

If you take poison – thinking it's medicine – all the faith in the world won't restore your life. Similarly, if Jesus is the only source of salvation, and you're trusting in anyone or anything else for your salvation, your faith is useless.

Many people assume there are many paths to God and that each religion represents an aspect of truth. But Jesus said, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me**" (John 14:6). He didn't claim to be one of many equally legitimate paths to God, or the way to God for His day only. He claimed to be the only way to God – then and forever.

### **JESUS IS LORD**

Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve, and enjoy endless fellowship with Him.

The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything. "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." (John 1:3). Therefore He also owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship.

Romans 10:9 says, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Confessing Jesus as Lord means humbly submitting to His authority.

Philippians 2:10-11 (KJV)  
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Believing that God has raised Him from the dead involves trusting in the historical fact of His resurrection – the Pinnacle of Christian faith and the way the Father affirmed the deity and authority of the Son.

Romans 1:4 (KJV)  
And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Acts 17:30-31 (KJV)  
And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

True faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is more than simply being sorry for sin. It is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin and pursue holiness (Isaiah 55:7). Jesus said, "**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments**" (John 14:15) and "**If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine**" (John 8:31).

It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God (James 2:19), but they don't love and obey Him. Their faith is not genuine. True saving faith always responds in obedience (Ephesians 2:10).

Jesus is the sovereign Lord. When you obey Him you are acknowledging His lordship and submitting to His authority. That doesn't mean your obedience will always be perfect, but that is your goal. There is no area of your life that you withhold from Him.

### **JESUS IS THE JUDGE**

All who reject Jesus as their Lord and Savior will one day face Him as their Judge: "God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says, "The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

## **MOST IMPORTANT DECISION: HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?**

Who does the Bible say Jesus is? The living God, the Holy One, the Savior, the only valid object of saving faith, the sovereign Lord, and the righteous Judge.

Who do you say Jesus is? That is the inescapable question. He alone can redeem you – free you from the power and penalty of sin. He alone can transform you, restore you to fellowship with God, and give your life eternal purpose. Will you repent and believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?