

How To Become A Christian !

What being a Christian is not:

1. Being a Christian is not primarily about missing hell or going to heaven when you die.
2. Being a Christian is not about something you once did but rather who you now are.
3. Christianity is not a religion but rather a relationship.

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Misconceptions about how a person becomes a Christian:

1. Born in a "Christian" country
2. Born in a Christian home
3. Born to Christian parents
4. Go to church
5. Member of a church
6. Baptized or confirmed
7. Believe in God (demons believe –James 2)
8. Believe in the Bible
9. Went "down front" during an invitation
10. Asked Jesus into my "life," "heart," or to be my "Savior" (Note: the Bible never tells us to ask Jesus to become our Savior. Jesus becomes our Savior when we make Him our Lord.)

What the Bible says about being a Christian:

1. Each of us is born a sinner.

Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners.

2. Each of us stands condemned before a holy God.

John 3:16 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. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Christ died on the cross in our place for our sin so that we could be forgiven by God and have a relationship with Him.

1 Peter 3:18 Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

4. Eternal life is a relationship with God, not something that we once did or now do.

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

5. Knowing facts about God and Scripture does not make a person a Christian.

Mark 12:28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 The scribe said to Him, "Right Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no one else besides Him; 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

6. Salvation is a gift of grace that we receive, not a reward that we earn.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

7. We receive God's gift by making Christ Lord of our lives.

Romans 10:9 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; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Mark 8:34 He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. 35 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake

and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"

8. Many people are deceived about their faith.

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" 23 And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness."

9. The proof of salvation is a changed life, not a past act or decision.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.

1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

2 Corinthians 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

If He (God) got you, then you got Him; if you got Him, then you got changed. If you didn't get changed it is because you didn't get Him; if you didn't get Him, it's because He never got you.

10. Christians belong to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

2 Corinthians 5:15 He (Jesus) died for all, so that they who live (those who are born again) might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

A person becomes a Christian when he believes in his heart that Jesus is who He said that He was, wants God's forgiveness for His sin, and gives his life to the Lord. This decision is usually verbalized in a prayer:

Thank you God for loving me when you know the worst about me. Thank you for wanting me when you don't need me. Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross in my place for my sin. I admit that I am a sinner and ask you to forgive me. The best I know how, I am giving the life that you gave me back to you. Starting now, I'm Yours.

It is the heart and not the words that matter. People can say words and not mean them. If you don't mean it, then nothing changes. If you mean these words, then everything changes: you are forgiven, a child of God, and on your way to discovering and experiencing the life for which you were created.