

How to become a Real Christian

The Bible teaches about the one true, eternal God who has created all things. And the true God is not silent, for he has spoken through his word, the Bible, and through his Son, Jesus Christ. In his great mercy God has sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. The purpose of this tract is to explain, from the Bible, the basic truths of the Christian faith. Please read it carefully, and God will speak to your soul:

1. The Lord God created the heavens and the earth

The Bible teaches that the one true, living God has created all things by the power of his word:

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).
 - God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them ... (Genesis 1:27).
 - You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. You are the Lord God (Nehemiah 9:6-7).
 - By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command (Hebrews 11:3).
- For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse (Romans 1:20).

2. The heart of man is sinful

The Bible teaches that all people are fallen sinners in the sight of God:

- Sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned (Romans 5:12).
- All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way (Isaiah 53:6).
- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
- There is no one righteous, not even one (Romans 3:11).
- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick (Jeremiah 17:9).

3. God is holy and hates sin

The Bible teaches that the Lord God is holy, righteous and pure. He hates sin, abhors evil and does not tolerate wrongdoing:

- Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come (Revelation 4:8).
- Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong (Habakkuk 1:13).
- God is light, and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).
- Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed (Revelation 15:4).

4. The wages of sin is death

The righteousness and justice of God demand that sin must be punished:

- The soul who sins shall die (Ezekiel 18:20).
- The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness (Romans 1:18).
- There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil (Romans 2:9).
- It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement (Hebrews 9:27).
- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).
- A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction (Galatians 6:7, 8).

5. Jesus Christ died for our sins on the Cross

The wonder of the Christian gospel is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bore your sin in his body on the Cross of Calvary. Christ died for you, so that you might be reconciled to God:

- He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree [Cross], that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24).
- He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself (Hebrews 9:26).
- The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).
- He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).
- For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:6, 8).

6. God calls all people, everywhere, to repent and turn to Christ

Repentance lies at the heart of the Christian gospel; without repentance there can be no forgiveness of sin:

God commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31).

Jesus Christ did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32).

- Jesus preached: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 4:17).
- The apostle Peter preached: 'Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out' (Acts 3:19)
- The apostle Paul preached that all people 'should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance' (Acts 26:20).

7. You must be born again

A real Christian is the person who is born again of the Holy Spirit of God. By faith the Holy Spirit lives in the heart of the Christian:

The mystery of the Christian faith is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

• Jesus said: 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God ... As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up [on the Cross of Calvary], that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him' (John 3:3, 14-17).

• To all who received him [Jesus Christ], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become a child of God, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12, 13).

• For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God (Romans 8:14).

• But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved ... For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:4, 5, 8).

• Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

8. A Christian knows Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord

A Christian is one who accepts Christ as both Saviour and Lord. This means that a Christian strives to obey the Lord's command:

• Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

• Jesus said: 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it' (Luke 9:23, 24).

• Jesus said: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments' (John 14:15).

• No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God (1 John 3:9).

• And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).

If God has spoken to you through his word, and you want to become a Christian, a child of God, then here is what you should do...

First, make a decision to accept Christ as Saviour and Lord. You can be saved from sin, not as a result of anything you can do, but through faith in Christ. He paid the price of your sin on the Cross of Calvary. Therefore, if you truly repent of your sins, and turn away from your old life, and confess your sins to God, the blood of Jesus will cleanse you from all sin. As you put your faith in Christ, and accept him as your Saviour and Lord, the Holy Spirit enters into your heart and life, and you are born again of God – you are a new creation, a child of God. Your salvation is a gift from God, for by the grace of God you have been saved and become a follower of Jesus Christ. You are now a disciple of the Lord of Glory, and you must live as such.

Second, live as a disciple of Jesus Christ – a real Christian. Having accepted Christ as Saviour, you must do four things. *First*, you must read God's Word, the Bible, every day. As you read, so you will grow in your Christian life. It is God's will to transform you into the image of Jesus. *Second*, you must pray every day, confessing your sins, worshipping your God and Father, thanking him for his goodness, and praying for his blessing. *Third*, you must tell others that you have become a Christian; tell others what God has done for you. *Fourth*, you must regularly attend a Church that teaches the Bible.

Produced by Grace Baptist Church, Dorking Road, Epsom (Opposite Epsom Hospital). Our church service are at 11am and 6.30pm every Sunday, and Sunday school at 9.30 am. You are most welcome to attend. If you would like help in understanding the Christian gospel please phone Pastor Brian Moody on 01372 728826 or by email to : brian.moody1@ntlworld.com.