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## Salvation: What Does it Mean to Be a Christian?

Theologically speaking, a Christian is someone who has received the Lord Jesus as Savior ([John 1:12](#)), trusts Him alone for the forgiveness of sins ([Acts 4:12](#)), has put no trust in His own efforts ([Isaiah 64:6](#)) to please God, and repented from his/her sins ([Mark 1:15](#)).

Experientially speaking, the life of a Christian does not consist only of theological knowledge. It is theology that defines who Jesus is and what He has done, but it is not the end of all things. We are Christians who believe the above points, yes, but we have a living and open relationship with the Lord Jesus. We experience Him through His indwelling Spirit. As Christians, we seek to do the will of the Lord, to follow in His footsteps, and to honor and glorify God in all he does.

It is not necessary as a Christian to perform good works IN ORDER to please God because, first of all, our good deeds are but filthy rags to God ([Isaiah 64:6](#)) and, most important, we are made righteous in the eyes of God by the finished work of Jesus on the cross ([Rom. 5](#)). This is one of the areas where the cults err. They confuse good works with the forgiveness of sins. They combine the two and teach that God

will not accept us if we are not trying to be good. Because they have a wrong view of who Jesus is, they have a wrong view of salvation.

A common objection to this doctrine of justification by faith is that if a Christian believes in God the way I say, then he does not need to do anything good, that he could then go out and sin all he wanted. First of all, this objection is answered in Romans 6. We are not saved for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification ([1 Thess. 4:7](#)). We do not use the grace of God to sin. Second, a Christian is called to be Holy ([1 Pet. 1:16](#)). Third, a Christian is called to do good works ([Eph. 2:10](#)). It is just that these works are not combined with our faith to merit the forgiveness of our sins. They are, instead, a natural result of our saved condition. We do good works **because** we are Christians, not in order to become Christians.

Additionally, being a Christian means that you are serving the true Jesus, not a false Jesus. In order for a person to follow Jesus, he must first accurately understand who Jesus is. If someone called their pet iguana Jesus, even though he had great faith in Jesus the iguana, his faith is useless. Faith is only as good as the object in which it is placed.

The Mormon Jesus is the brother of the devil begotten through sexual intercourse from a god and goddess who used to be people on another planet

(Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce McConkie, p. 321). The Jehovah's Witness Jesus is Michael the archangel who became a man, died on a torture stake, did not rise from the dead in the same body he died in, and then went back to being an angel (Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1152; New Heavens and a New Earth, p. 30). The New Age Jesus is a man in tune with the divine consciousness. In opposition to this, the Jesus of Christianity is both God and Man. He has two natures in His one person.

### **Being a Christian Means Fellowship with Jesus**

Why did God create? Was there some lack in God that moved Him to create the universe and man in it? Was God lonely? We can't fully answer these questions, but we can look into the Bible for clues to their answer.

[1 John 4:8](#) says that God is love. [John 3:16](#) says that *"...God so loved the world He gave..."* The nature of love is to give. It is "other" centered. It focuses on another. Read [1 Cor. 13](#) for confirmation of this. That is why God gave His Son. That is why, I believe, that God created us: to love us, to give to us Himself which is the very best thing in the universe. But sin entered the picture and God, in His loving mercy, sent His Son into the world to save the world.

Love is not a doctrine, it is an experience, an action. In the

Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve walked with God. They actually walked with the creator of the universe. They had fellowship with Him. Fellowship is an intimate communion between two or more persons. Adam and Eve had this intimate communion with the Lord. But when they sinned that fellowship was broken. God then shed blood, by killing an animal to get the skins, and covered Adam and Eve. Incidentally, Jesus said in [John 6:46](#) that no one has ever seen the Father. If Adam and Eve were walking with God in the Garden of Eden, but it wasn't the Father, then who was it? It must have been Jesus.

So God sought out Adam and Eve. Remember they hid themselves from Him. In Exodus 25:8, God told the Israelites to build a sanctuary so that He might dwell among His people. In [John 1:14](#), Jesus, God in flesh, dwelt again among His people. In [1 Cor. 1:9](#) we are called by God to be in fellowship with Jesus. In these statements are profound clues. We are called to have a personal relationship, the way it was in the Garden of Eden, with Jesus. This can only be done through Jesus.

Additionally, the word for 'fellowship' in the Greek is the same word used for 'communion.' When we partake of communion, we are partaking in fellowship with the Lord. Communion is a covenantal sign of the promise of God to give us eternal life and it is representative

in that sense of God's promises to be with His people. But the real communion, the real fellowship with the Lord, is through the indwelling Holy Spirit who always bears witness of Jesus ([John 15:26](#)). Therefore, the Christian, the true Christian, will have an intimate and real personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

The cultist cannot have this intimate and personal relationship with Jesus. First, because their Jesus is false ([Matt. 24:24](#)). Second, because their Jesus is not prayed to the way the Jesus of the Bible is ([Zech. 13:9](#) with [1 Cor. 1:1-2](#); [Acts 7:55-60](#)); third, because their Jesus is not worshiped equally with the Father ([John 5:22-23](#); [Matt. 2:2, 11](#); [14:33](#); [28:9](#); [John 9:35-38](#); [Heb. 1:6](#)); and fourth, because their Jesus is not their Lord and God ([John 20:28](#); [Heb. 1:8](#)).

The Jesus of the cultist is not God (he might be one god among many, or he might be a lesser god). Therefore, he is not to be sought in a personal and intimate way.

The Christian, on the other hand, has a real relationship with the real Lord Jesus. This is accomplished only through the real Jesus. The Jesus of the Bible.

To be a Christian is to experience the Lord, to have a sweet and real fellowship with Jesus, to be able to pray to Him, and seek Him.

*"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" ([1 Cor. 1:9](#)).*

## How to Become a Christian

You do not become a Christian by anything you do. You do not become a Christian by being a member of a church. You do not become a Christian by being sincere. You do not become a Christian by anything you say.

What must you do? You must believe in Jesus alone; you must trust Him alone; you must accept Jesus' sacrifice for your sins alone and nothing that you do in any way.

Though there are no rules or steps to becoming a Christian, the following is a biblical summarization of what you need to know and do:

### **1. You must recognize your sinfulness before God:**

*"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" ([Rom. 5:12](#), NIV)*

**2. You must recognize that your sin has caused a separation between you and God:** *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face*

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from you, so that he will not hear" ([Isaiah 59:2](#)).

### 3. You must believe that Jesus is the only way to God:

*"I am the way, the truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father but by Me"* ([John 14:6](#)).

### 4. You must ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins because Jesus has the authority to forgive you of your sins:

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'"* ([Matt. 28:18](#), NIV)...and

Jesus told you to ask Him for your requests: *"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it"* ([John 14:14](#), NIV)...and

Jesus is the one who forgives sins: *"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...."* *He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home"'"* ([Mark 2:10-11](#), NIV).

This last "step" is called receiving Jesus. [John 1:12](#) says, *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"* (NIV).

### 5. You must turn away from your sin

*"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent"* ([Acts 17:30](#), NIV)

*"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance"* ([Matt. 3:8](#), NIV)

If you want to become a Christian you must accept Jesus as your Savior. You must pray to Him and ask Him to forgive you of your sins and come into your heart.

He will. He loves you. Salvation is only a prayer of faith away.

If this page has helped you in anyway, please [e-mail](#) me and let me know. God Bless.