

Study One



Becoming A Christian

Read the lesson carefully, and fill in the Bible references before coming to the study.

Are you a Christian? This is the most important question you will ever have to answer. However, many people are confused by this question because they do not really know what the Christian message is. The purpose of this study is to clarify this point, and to show how you can become a real Christian. Here is an outline of the Christian message:

1. God's Plan

God wants us to have the best He has to offer! In the beginning He made a good world to live in.

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Genesis 1:31

He still wants us to have the best He has for us. See what Jesus said:

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John 10:10

2. Our Problem

In order that we can enjoy the full life God wants us to have, we must be in a right relationship with Him and live as He intends. Here lies the problem: our relationship with God is in ruins. Why? God is the rightful Ruler of the world, but we have all *rebelled* against His rule. This is what the Bible means by *sin*. We have lived our way instead of God's way.

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Romans 3:23

The consequences are devastating. We are cut off from God.

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Isaiah 59:2

We now live under God's judgement and the result is death – eternal death.

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Romans 6:23

People try to find God in various ways, but are powerless to restore their relationship with Him. We cannot undo our rebellion, and we are incapable of living as we should. We simply cannot stop sinning!

3. God's Solution

Although we cannot make our own way back to God, He has not given up on us. God's love for us is so great that He has found a way to mend our broken relationship – at great cost to Himself. As God's justice is perfect, it is impossible for Him to pretend that our rebellion never happened – that would not be true. Instead, God dealt with the rebellion as justice demanded, but without destroying us. He sent His Son into the world to die in the place of all that believe, and to come alive once the penalty was paid.

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1 Corinthians 15:3-4
(cf. 1 Peter 2:24)

Forgiveness and new life are available through Jesus Christ, and all who become Christ's followers will receive the Holy Spirit.

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Acts 2:38
(cf. Acts 16:31)

Christ has paid the debt we owed, and now the way to God is open. God will forgive all those who are willing to return to Him.

4. Our Response

We face a choice: if we continue to rebel against God, He will condemn us. God will not tolerate our rebellion indefinitely.

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2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

But if we want to make a new start, if we repent and live for God from now on, then He and His holy angels will welcome us with joy.

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Luke 15:10

Since Christ has paid the believer's penalty at the cross, those who repent can now be treated as if they had never rebelled.

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Romans 8:1

5. Steps in Repentance (a command Acts 3:19)



Admit that you are a sinner who is justly condemned by God and unable to save yourself.

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1 John 1:8



Confess your sins to God.

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1 John 1:9



Forsake all known sin, and return to God (cf. Luke 15:11-32).

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John 8:11

6. Steps in Faith (a command: Acts 16:31)



Acknowledge that only Christ can save you.

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Acts 4:12



Trust Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Ask Him, as Saviour, to deliver you from God’s judgement through His death on the Cross and to forgive you your sin.

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Acts 16:31

7. Finally

You should give up your rebellion, and accept Christ as the rightful Ruler of your life.

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Mark 8:34

Do this, and you will be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God.

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Romans 5:1

You will also receive the Holy Spirit into your life, just as God promised (Acts 2:38 above). But that does not mean you will become perfect overnight! A new Christian is like a new-born baby – he needs to grow. God will help you in this, but you will have to make every effort to obey His word. You will only be made perfect when God takes you to Heaven. Later studies will look at Christian growth in more detail.