

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

ADULT BIBLE COMMUNITIES

Tools for Presenting the Living Word of God

JESUS OUR SAVIOR Student Version

I know, O LORD,
that a man's life
is not his own;
it is not for man
to direct his steps.

Jeremiah 10:23

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

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JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

OUR SALVATION

*“So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like Him. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:26-28 (NLT)*

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing WHY they are here. They exist year after year with no idea of God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of my life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- Some look for happiness through friendships.
- Some look for happiness through “pleasure” experiments.
- Some look for happiness through popularity & power.
- Some look for happiness through sex & drugs

Real happiness comes from understanding my _____.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. GOD MADE ME TO _____ ME!

The LORD appeared to me in a faraway place and said, "I love you with an everlasting love. So I will continue to show you my kindness." " Jeremiah 31:3 (GW)

Before the creation of the world, he chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect in his presence. Because of his love he had already decided to adopt us through Jesus Christ. He freely chose to do this. Ephesians 1:4, 5 (GW)

WE WERE CREATED TO _____ A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO _____ ALL OF THE REST OF GOD'S CREATION! THIS MAKES US SPECIAL!

And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful, and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it. And have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the heavens, and all animals that move upon the earth." Genesis 1:27, 28 (MKJV)

Tell those who have the riches of this world not to be arrogant and not to place their confidence in anything as uncertain as riches. Instead, they should place their confidence in God who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17

3. WHEN WE KNOW AND _____ GOD, AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, IT PRODUCES TREMENDOUS BENEFITS IN OUR _____.

Clear Conscience
Romans 8:1

Life & Peace
Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness
Romans 8:26

Purpose
Romans 8:28

Confidence
Romans 8:31

Security
Romans 8:39

Power & Strength
Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment
Philippians 4:19

Freedom
John 8:32,36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live!

A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest. John 10:10 (CEV)

If this is true, why aren't most people really happy?

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Humanity has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God.

This ignorance to God's way of living is communicated in our words and lifestyle:

- "Look out for # 1."
- "I want what I want, when I want it."
- "Do your own thing."
- "If it feels good, do it! Who cares what God has to say about it?"
- "It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: _____

Sin is a Biblical word that means "to miss the mark."

Key word: _____.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, each one to his own way;" Isaiah 53:6 (MKJV)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8 (MKJV)

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. Sin separates us from God and causes us to live our lives outside of His will.

"But your iniquities have come between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you," Isaiah 59:2 (MKJV)

"for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,.." Romans 3:23 (MKJV)

All the best attempts in the world won't get you to where you need to be. Many people say things like:

- "My mother was a Christian so ..."
- "I'm a really good person."
- "I'll give up all my bad habits."
- "I'll work real hard and earn it."
- "At least I'm not as bad as others."
- "I go to church all the time."

The result of these attempts is worthless. The Bible teaches us that our attempts lead to DEATH. A relationship with God is NOT based on anything you DO.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25 (MKJV)

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives: friendships, parents, kids, jobs, finances, etc.

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

*“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6 (ISV)*

God came to earth as a human being [in Jesus] to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus would not have had to come. “The Way” is through the person of Jesus!

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Romans 6:23 (ISV)*

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS!

*For God is one, and there is one Mediator of God and of men,
the Man Christ Jesus,” 1 Timothy 2:5, 6 (MKJV)*

WHY DID GOD SEND JESUS TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE?

God did this for YOU because He loves YOU and wants YOU to know Him.

*But God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners
Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (MKJV)*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE. NOW HE WAITS FOR EACH OF US to individually ACCEPT what He has done for us.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

A - B - C - D

1. **A** - _____ THAT GOD HAS NOT BEEN FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS.

“Therefore, repent and turn to him to have your sins blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and so that he may send you Jesus, the Christ whom he appointed long ago. .” Acts 3:19-20 (ISV)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (MKJV)

2. **B** - _____ THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN, AND IS ALIVE TODAY.

“For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NLT)

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

3. **C** - _____ YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

“Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in Heaven.” Matthew 10:32 (See also, Romans 10:9)

4. **D** - _____ TO YOUR OWN WILL AND PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE.

“Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4 (MKJV)

“So that if any one is in Christ, that one is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (MKJV)

You can take these steps at any time you are ready to place your trust in Christ and turn to follow Him.

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth, but He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two practices as reminders of His death. These two practices are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY _____.

“At that time Jesus came ... and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE CHRIST _____ IT.

Jesus said *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...” Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)*

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A _____.

“...and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8 (NIV)

“We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3 (NIV)

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. IT IDENTIFIES ME WITH JESUS' _____ AND RESURRECTION.

“...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV)

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death. Colossians 2:12 (CEV)

2. IT INTRODUCES ME TO MY _____ AS A CHRISTIAN.

“When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptized, so that we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.” Romans 6:4 (CEV)

“What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Baptism is to the covenant of Christ what the wedding is to the covenant of marriage.

Marriage and Christianity - A Comparison

“And now you are ‘married’, so to speak, to the One Who rose from the dead.” Romans 7:4 (LB)

Covenant of Marriage	Covenant with Christ
<p>This relationship begins with a special kind of love that says, "I've found the one I've been looking for."</p> <p>This love responds by . . .</p>	<p>This relationship begins with a faith that says, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."</p> <p>This faith responds by . . .</p>
<p>. . . deciding to submit myself to the best interest of the other.</p> <p>"you first"</p>	<p>. . . deciding to submit myself to Jesus' best interest: repentance.</p> <p>"You first"</p>
<p>We tell others of the decision made.</p>	<p>We tell others of the decision made: public confession.</p>
<p>Wedding ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving the oath of allegiance • an end and a beginning • leaving the single life for a shared life 	<p>Baptism (to the covenant of Christ what the wedding is to the covenant of marriage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving the oath of allegiance • an end and a beginning • leaving the 'self' life for a shared life
<p>Now you can't just sit back and do nothing. You need to get to know your mate better and better. The depth and quality of the relationship will be determined by the amount of effort exerted at this point.</p>	<p>Now you can't just sit back and do nothing. You need to get to know God better and better. The depth and quality of the relationship will be determined by the amount of effort exerted at this point.</p>

BAPTISM IS AN _____ SEALING YOUR COVENANT WITH GOD.

Other passages on baptism include:

Matthew 28:19;
Acts 8:34-38;
Acts 16:29-34;
Galatians 3:26, 27;

Mark 16:16;
Acts 22:10-16;
Acts 18:8;
1 Peter 3:18-21

Acts 2:36-41;
Acts 10:43-48;
Romans 6:3, 4;

Acts 8:12;
Acts 16:13-15;
Romans 10:9, 10

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. BECAUSE _____ WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water ...” Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE _____ WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) *“... Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ...” Acts 8:38-39 (NIV)*

3. THE WORD “BAPTIZE” ACTUALLY MEANS “TO _____ WATER”.

4. IMMERSION BEST DRAMATIZES A _____ AND RESURRECTION

“What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS _____ IN CHRIST

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized ...” Acts 2:41 (NLT)

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:12, 13 NIV

A GREAT QUESTION! - *What if I was baptized as an infant?*

Some churches baptize infants. At MONMOUTH Christian Church, we don't; we only baptize those who have made a decision to believe in Christ. In the Bible, men and women were baptized **following** their belief in Jesus.

The custom of infant baptism began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. It's a ceremony intended to emphasize a commitment between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. During this ceremony, the parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ.

At MONMOUTH Christian Church, we have a dedication service for infants and children that emphasizes the parents' role in raising a child to follow Christ. Therefore, even if you were baptized as a baby, we encourage you to be baptized by immersion as a believer.

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

When you believe that Jesus is the Christ... the Son of the Living God... And I take Him as my personal Lord and Savior.” As soon as you have _____ you may be baptized. Later, we will give you a certificate to commemorate this occasion.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized ... that day.” Acts 2:41 (NIV)

“Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.”
Acts 8:35-38 (NIV)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you'll never be ready.

Can My Family Be Baptized Together?

If each family member understands the purpose of baptism and has personally placed their trust in Christ for salvation ... then we would encourage the family to be baptized at the same time. However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It's not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ (particularly children). This puts undue pressure on them and delays your obedience.

What Should I Wear When I Am Baptized?

We have appropriate baptismal garments to wear. You will want to bring a swim-suit for under the robe. We will provide towels and a changing room to prepare.

Will I Have To Say Anything?

At the time of your baptism we will say something like: “If you believe what I am about to say with all of your heart, would you repeat these words after me? ‘I commemorate this special event in your life. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism. This is a tremendous way for you to demonstrate your faith in Christ.

While baptism is a one-time experience, Jesus gave us another action that is intended to continue throughout the life of the Christian. It's called the Lord's Supper (Communion), and it's a powerful way for Christians to remember and celebrate what God did for us in the life of Jesus.

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1. IT IS A _____.

"And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'" 1 Corinthians 11:24 (NIV)

2. IT IS A _____.

"In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'" 1 Corinthians 11:25 (NIV)

3. IT IS A _____.

*"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."
1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)*

4. IT IS A _____.

*"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."
1 Corinthians 10:16, 17 (NIV)*

II. WHO CAN TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already _____ . (See Mark 14:22-26)

In the course of their meal, having taken and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them. Then he said, Take, this is my body. 23 Taking the chalice, he gave it to them, thanking God, and they all drank from it. 24 He said, This is my blood, God's new covenant, Poured out for many people. 25 "I'll not be drinking wine again until the new day when I drink it in the kingdom of God." 26 They sang a hymn and then went directly to Mount Olives. Mark 14:22-26

"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." 1 Corinthians 11:29 (NIV)

III. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

“So if anyone eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily, that person is guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking from the cup.” 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 (NLT)

You prepare yourself by...

1. _____.

“So if anyone eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily, that person is guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 11:27 (NLT)

2. _____.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

3. _____.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.” Romans 12:1 (NIV)

4. _____.

*“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you; leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”
Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)*

IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often to observe the Lord's Supper.

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.” 1 Corinthians 11:26

At M.C.C., we observe the Lord's Supper every Sunday, because that is what the first Christians did.

“On the first day of the week we came together to break bread...” Acts 20:7 (NIV)

What will your response be?

Every person's story is different, but there arrives in each life a moment in which a man or woman takes a position, deciding either for or against Jesus Christ.

At one rather formal dinner, I was seated next to a member of European royalty. During the course of that dinner, this princess asked me how she might know with certainty that she had eternal life. That evening, I explained she had to make a choice, a choice the Bible says we're all invited to make. That choice is to humble ourselves before God and in prayer:

- Tell God that we believe in the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ—all that Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter really mean.
- Ask God for His free gift of salvation—complete forgiveness of sins, an absolutely cleansed conscience, a new heart, God's indwelling presence, eternal life, and a warm welcome into God's family forever.

Later, I received a note from this princess, confirming that she had prayed to receive Jesus Christ into her heart and life and now had the assurance of salvation. She was so happy to be at peace with God. She was overjoyed to be experiencing His power at work within her.

Have you decided for or against JESUS yet?

Suppose you were to die tonight and, upon arriving at the gate of heaven, the Lord asked you, "Upon what basis do you request entrance into My heaven?"

Perhaps your answer would be, "I confess I'm not perfect. I've mistreated lots of people, as well as myself. But I've done some good as well, Lord. Doesn't that count for something?"

Or maybe you would answer, "Lord, I wasn't too bad. I didn't murder anyone or cheat on my spouse. My children didn't end up in jail, and I was promoted at my company because of my honesty and hard work."

Either way, the Lord would have to answer, "Good works are good, but not good enough. No one who is impure in any way can enter here." The only way God will allow us into heaven is if we confess our sins and by faith accept the forgiveness He has provided for us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus paid for our sins by His blood shed on the cross, and we can live eternally with Him in heaven because He conquered death. God loves us so much He sacrificed His own Son so we could live with Him forever. But you must respond. You must make a choice. You must "confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead" to be saved (Romans 10:9; John 3:36).

Are you ready to accept God's gift of eternal life in heaven? The Bible teaches that if you make that choice, Jesus will come into your heart, you will become a child of God, your sins will be forgiven, and you will be spotless in the eyes of the holy God. He will say to you, "Welcome! Welcome to My family! I have a house ready for you in heaven, and you will live with Me for eternity."

How do you trust Jesus Christ? How can you express that inner choice? You can pray a simple prayer of faith, like this one:

"Thank You, Lord, for preparing a place for me in heaven. Thank You that Jesus died on the cross and took away all my shame and guilt and forgave all my past, present and future sins by His shed blood. Thank You most of all that Jesus rose from the dead. I believe Jesus is alive today, reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords. I confess my failure and sins to You. Come into my heart, wash me from all my sins, fill me with Your presence, and make me Your child. I will serve You for the rest of my life until You take me home to heaven and I see You face to face."

The important thing isn't saying the right words, but, perhaps for the first time in your life, talking heart to heart with the Lord Jesus Christ and inviting Him in. If you've never done so, I urge you to give your life to Jesus right now, in the quietness of your heart.

Luis Palau

What Christianity Is All About

The Outline

If someone asked you to explain clearly and simply what Christianity is all about, could you do it? Where would you start - and what would you include? There are many things you could say and it is helpful to have a simple frame work to organize your thoughts. The following outline was produced by Canon Jim Glennon of Sydney, Australia, and is explained in his book "Know and Tell The Gospel". A good outline needs to be simple to remember, free of jargon, cover the central issues of the Gospel and be easy to remember. This model is based on the five headings:

God

God really exists. He made the world and that includes you and me. We believe this because he has clearly revealed himself in the historic person of Jesus Christ whom he raised from the dead. Jesus is the rightful ruler of this world. See Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:18 and Phil 2:9-11.

Man

None of us has lived as though the above was true. We have all assumed that we have the right to run our own lives. Sometimes we have consciously disobeyed God; at other times we have just ignored him. It amounts to the same thing: **rebellion**. See Mark 7: 21-23, Romans 3: 12, 1 John: 3,4.

God

God tells us, through Jesus, that this is not our world to live in according to our selfish desires. It is God's world. We should therefore stop rebelling against him and live in the world the way he has designed us to live in it. He calls us to come into his "Kingdom"; that is, to submit to his kingly rule in our lives. See Matthew 7:21, Mark 1: 14,15, Acts 17: 30.

What If I Do?

If we stop rebelling and bring our lives under God's rule, he treats us as though we had never rebelled against him. He accepts us wholeheartedly, because Jesus, in dying on the cross, took upon himself the punishment we deserve. A whole new relationship with God then opens up. We become his friends and are adopted into his family. See John 3: 16, Romans 6: 23, 8: 1,15, Colossians 2: 14.

What If I Don't?

If we refuse God's offer of forgiveness and reconciliation, we will remain unforgiven and unreconciled. Ultimately, rebels will be overthrown. See Matthew 7: 23, 26, 27, Romans 1: 18 and 2 Thessalonians 1: 8,9.

(John 3:16) GW God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

Rom 10:9-10 GW Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation.