

Tell me about ... baptist church

## Becoming a Christian

### What is a Christian?

Christians are people who have put their faith in Jesus Christ to forgive them the wrong in their lives and want him to lead their lives from that point on. Doing good deeds, going to church regularly, trying to live a reasonable life are all good things, but do not of themselves make someone a Christian.



### Please explain!

**Back to the beginning!** God is love and he created us and this world for us to enjoy. He created us "in his image", as thinking, reasoning human beings, so that we can be his friends and love him. He has given us rules to live by, so that we can all live at peace with him and with each other.

**The Bad News!** However, as thinking people we are able to choose to do good or bad; right or wrong. God does not force us into loving him.



When we do wrong, the Bible calls this 'sin'. It is, in effect, going against God's way for our lives. We can see this in all the violence, hatred and greed in the world today. It is not just things like murder that are sin, but lying, selfishness, stealing and cheating. The Bible says that we have all sinned and that it separates us from God (Isaiah 59. 1-2, Romans 3. 23). Sin brings God's judgement upon us because we have disobeyed his laws for us.



***God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. The Bible (John 3. 16)***

That judgement ultimately ends in death; as St Paul wrote, "When someone sins, he earns what sin pays -death." (Romans 6. 23).



### **The Good News!**

God has given us a way to be reconciled back to himself and end that separation. He sent his son, Jesus Christ, to take the punishment for the wrong in our lives. His death on the cross was not for any sin he had committed but for our sin.

Days later Jesus rose from the dead to show that he has gained the victory over sin and death, and that he is alive for evermore. He has broken down the barrier that separated us from God; the gap has been bridged!

## **How do you become a Christian?**

Becoming a Christian is as simple as A - B - C - D!

Admit that you have sinned in God's sight and that this has separated you from God.

Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you, taking the penalty for your sin in order to bring you back to God.



Confess your sin to God and ask him to forgive you;  
- that is, receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

Decide to invite Jesus Christ to take control of your life;  
-that is, receive Jesus Christ as your Lord.

You can do this by praying the simple prayer overleaf.

## **What happens once you have become a Christian?**

- You have been forgiven (I John 4. 10).
- You have been "born again" by the work of the Holy Spirit in your life (John 3. 3; I Peter 1. 23). This means that the spiritual side of your life has been born within you.
- You have received God's gift of eternal life (Romans 6. 23). This means that when you die, you will be with Jesus Christ for ever in heaven
- You have become part of God's family (John 1. 12; Galatians 3. 26).

## Here is a prayer that you can pray to become a Christian

**Lord Jesus,**

**I admit that I have been living my life my way instead of your way.**

**I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to take away my sin.**

**I confess my sin to you and ask you to forgive me. Please come into my life and make me the person you want me to be. Amen.**

Once you have prayed the above prayer, tell another Christian what you have done or give us a call or contact us, as we would love to hear from you and support you as you start a new life with Jesus.

### A Final Question

We cannot earn God's forgiveness and we don't deserve it. Yet God offers it to us as a free gift, because of Christ's suffering and death.

The final question is,



Will you accept God's forgiveness and follow him?

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# Declaring **God's Way** - Sharing **His Love**