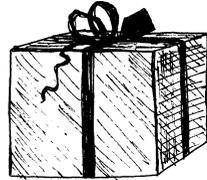


● Our response

Becoming a Christian is responding to what God has done so that it becomes true for you personally. It is like receiving a gift which is offered to you.



How do I respond? — three helpful words

• Repent

This is *saying sorry to God* for the wrong thoughts, words and actions you have done. There may be particular serious sins which you need to mention specifically to God and apologise for.

Repenting also means *renouncing sin* and *turning away from evil*. You can ask God to give you power to live a better life in the future. You may also need to apologise to people you have hurt and put right what you have done wrong (*Acts Ch 3: v 19*).

• Believe

Believing is *having faith in what God has done for you* in sending Jesus to die for your sins. *Thank God* for loving you so much that he sent Jesus to die for you and tell him that you love him and wish to serve him. Thank him for forgiving your sins (*John Ch 3: v 16*).

• Receive

Invite Jesus to come into your life to be your *new boss* (Lord), and your guide. Think of your life as a house and invite him into all the rooms and areas (*John Ch 1: v 12, Revelation Ch 3: v 20*).

If you have not already done so, you could pray to God using the ideas above and become a Christian today!



● Making it definite

You become a Christian when you repent and believe and take Jesus as your Lord. There are other things you can do to show that you mean business with God:



- Tell other people that you are now a Christian.
- Get baptised — a sign of your faith in Jesus.
- Join a church.
- Pray and read the Bible — each day if possible.
- Ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit.
- Continue with this course!

For your own benefit, you could sign here with the date.

I have become a Christian _____

Becoming a Christian



To become a follower of anyone requires a *decision* — I must *choose* to follow. A Christian is a follower of Jesus and so:

- I cannot be born a Christian.
- I am not a Christian because my parents are.
- I am not a Christian because I live in a 'Christian country'.
- I am not a Christian because I go to church.
- I am not a Christian because I do good things.
- I am not a Christian because I have been baptised or confirmed.
- I am not a Christian because I believe in God.

● So what does it mean to become a Christian?

I become a Christian when I accept what God has done for me and decide to follow Jesus.

Becoming a Christian is:

- Discovering that God really loves me.
- Making a relationship with God so that he can help and guide me in my life.
- Leaving behind fear, guilt, insecurity and anxiety.
- Finding out that whatever happens in this life, I have a firm promise of everlasting life with God.
- Joining a new family — discovering that God is my Father and that I have lots of new brothers and sisters.
- Working for a new boss — making Jesus my Lord and King.
- Receiving peace, joy and power for living.
- Getting a firm foundation for my life.
- Being born again and starting a new life.

Happy Birthday!

● The problem

Many people do not know God or believe in him. This is no surprise to anyone who reads the Bible since it explains clearly why people do not know God.

If you do something which offends another person, then your relationship with them is damaged and you need to put things right. In a similar way, our relationship with God is broken because of the wrong things (sins) which we have done against him.

* **Isaiah Ch 59: v 1-2** ('iniquities' is another word for sins)

What does sin do? _____

* **Romans Ch 3: v 23**

Who has sinned? _____

Checklist — have I sinned?

Here are some of the things described as sins in the Bible. Tick the ones which you have done – ever – in your life!

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hate | <input type="checkbox"/> Pride | <input type="checkbox"/> Jealousy, envy | <input type="checkbox"/> Selfishness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anger | <input type="checkbox"/> Stealing | <input type="checkbox"/> Dishonesty, lies | <input type="checkbox"/> Spite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bitterness | <input type="checkbox"/> Resentment | <input type="checkbox"/> Ignoring God | <input type="checkbox"/> Drunkenness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually immoral thoughts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually immoral acts | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Occult practices | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking God's name in vain, swearing | | |

This separation from God means that:

- We are out of touch with God and miss his help and guidance.
- We are slaves of this world and of evil.
- We will die without God and be lost forever.

* **Romans Ch 6: v 23**

What are the wages of sin? _____

What is the free gift of God? _____



A wage is earned and is what we deserve and reflects the justice of God. A free gift is given even when we don't deserve it and reflects the love and mercy of God.



● God's solution

Some people try to remove their own sins, perhaps by being very good or religious. Although this might sound like a good idea, it does not succeed in removing past sins or give power to overcome temptation and sin in the future.

The **GOOD NEWS** is that Jesus died to take away our sin and he arose from the dead to give us new power to live the way God wants.

* **Romans Ch 5: v 8**

How did God show his great love for us?

* **1 Peter Ch 2: v 24**

What did Jesus do as he died on the cross (or tree)?

* **1 Peter Ch 3: v 18**

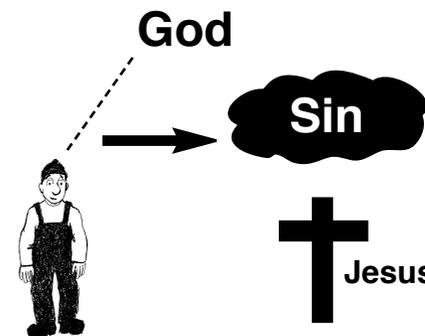
Who was the righteous person? _____

Who are the unrighteous people? _____

Why did Jesus die? _____

Jesus is the only perfect, sinless person who has ever lived. He is the only person who could die in our place as a *substitute* to take the punishment for our sins.

He was separated from God on our behalf so that our relationship with God can be restored. He suffered as he took our sins away.



* **Matthew Ch 27: v 32-50**

Read the account of the crucifixion of Jesus. What do you make of the cry in verse 46 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
