

What is a Christian?

Christianos (khris-tee-an-os') follower of Christ:

The whole purpose Jesus died was to offer us life - John 3:16-18 - 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever BELIEVES IN HIM shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever BELIEVES IN HIM is not condemned, but whoever DOES NOT BELIEVE stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Christ is the only pathway to God - John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

God wants all to become Christians - 1 Tim 2:3-4 - 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to BE SAVED and to COME TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.

A Christian is one who accepts Christ as their perfect sacrifice, obeys his commands, and Imitates Christ way and purpose of living.

Our perfect sacrifice - Titus 2:13-14 - 13 while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Obeying and Imitate Christ- 1 John 2:3-6 - 3 We know that we have come to know him IF we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WE ARE IN HIM: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

***You don't try to obey Him to get saved, you know you are saved if you are obeying him**

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Confess your true allegiance and believe in your true salvation - Rom 10:8-10 - 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your HEART that you believe and are justified, and it is with your MOUTH that you confess and are saved.

You hear and receive the Word in order to believe - Luke 8:12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

To be a Christian, you must truly let go of self and completely follow Christ - Mark 8:34-38 - 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he MUST deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Realize; Christianity is a gift offered by God. - Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It **TEACHES** us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Must have faith to receive the gift - Eph 2:8-9 - 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, THROUGH FAITH — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 **NOT BY WORKS,** so that no one can boast.

Your faith displayed is belief which is needed for Salvation

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

James 2:17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:23-24 - 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham BELIEVED GOD, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that **A PERSON IS JUSTIFIED BY WHAT HE DOES AND NOT BY FAITH ALONE.**

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF CHRISTIANS?

Love - 1 John 3:14-15 - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE REMAINS IN DEATH. 15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

Give yourself to God...completely!! - Rom 12:1-2 - 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. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. THEN you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Destroy in order to renew - Col 3:5-10 - 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Live YOUR life focused on Jesus, and get rid of things that hinder. - Heb 12:1-3 - 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the **AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH**, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **CONSIDER HIM** who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Reverently allow God to work in us- Phil 2:12-13 - 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with FEAR and TREMBLING, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Live as one part of many creating one -1 Cor 12:12-13 - 12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 **FOR WE WERE ALL BAPTIZED BY ONE SPIRIT INTO ONE BODY**-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many..

Make sure the Spirit, not our conscience, is our guide. - Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Give everything to God the right way -Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Our lives need to be a witness to the world - 1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

We also need to be witnesses to believers. - 1 Tim 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

YOU MUST GROW!!! Heb 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and **GO ON TO MATURITY**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

Be fully equipped by staying in the Bible - 2 Tim 3:16-17 - 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

A Christian is a new creation from God through Christ - 2 Cor 5:17-21 - 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.