

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

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What is a Christian? How do you become a Christian? These two questions are fundamental to true religion.

A Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ (Acts 11:26). The first time the name *Christian* is used in the New Testament, it refers to those who are disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ. A disciple is a learner, i.e. one who sits at the feet of another to learn and to become like his mentor or master. A disciple of Jesus believes in Jesus as God's Son (John 8:24). A disciple of Jesus follows the truth as revealed by Jesus Christ. A Christian is a child of God (Gal. 3:26, 27). A Christian belongs to God by virtue of being purchased by the blood of Christ (I Cor. 6:19, 20). Hence, a Christian is redeemed (Eph. 1:7). Finally, a Christian is a saint of God (I Cor. 1:2).

How do you become a Christian? If we cannot answer this question truthfully, then we cannot know that we are saved. Knowledge of the truth is essential to becoming a Christian (John 8:32). Christianity is a taught religion. It is rational and logical. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). Faith is trust in God and involves taking God at His Word. Without faith, we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). Love is also essential to becoming a Christian (Matt. 22:36-40). If we love God, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15). Love for God prompts us to repent of our sins (Acts 17:30, 31) and to confess Jesus Christ as God's Son (Acts 8:37). Then, we are baptized into Christ for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38, Mk. 16:16). Baptism is the new birth (John 3:3, 5). The new birth results in becoming a new creature in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). This new creature is a Christian!