



**THE WHO AND HOW
OF
BEING A CHRISTIAN**

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

Well, everyone knows the answer to that.

Like the man from a country town who was asked that question on T.V. recently. He said that everyone was a Christian unless they were a communist or someone like that. That just cannot be right.

It is surprising how many people answer, that if you are a good person then you are a Christian. There would be many good people, Atheists, Moslems or nothing at all, who would be surprised and annoyed to be labelled as Christians. Maybe it is not sufficient just to be good.

Certainly there are many people who would claim to be Christian because they believe in God. A recent survey has shown that about 90% of people in Australia believe in God. But so do Hindus and Buddhist and Moslems and Jews. And they would not take too kindly to being called Christians. Maybe it is not sufficient just to believe in God.

Again quite a few people would claim to be Christians because they belong to a Church or they have been baptized or confirmed or married in Church. But these are all outward signs of a Christian faith. Maybe it is not sufficient just to show the outward signs.

Who is a Christian then?

A Christian is a person who believes in and belongs to Jesus completely. He has decided and desires to follow Jesus and obey him in everything. He knows and loves Jesus Christ and has given his life to him. He wants to call Jesus 'Master' and mean it.

So it is not just a matter of being good or believing in God or belonging to a Church. It is to belong to a person, who lived and died and is alive now — the Lord Jesus Christ.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

This is what Jesus said and he ought to know.

First, if you are game, take a good hard look at Jesus Christ in the Bible. Then compare yourself with him. If you are horrified by what you see, then that is good.

Jesus is God's standard for a human life. If you don't reach the standard, then you are unacceptable to God. Which is bad news because no one has ever been that good. No one can even be good enough for God however hard they try.

If you then take another good hard look at Jesus Christ, you will gasp with excitement and joy. Jesus not only lived to show God's standard for us. He also died to rescue people who know that they are bad when compared to Jesus. And that is good news. In fact it is the best news this sad old world has ever had.

And Jesus says "Come to me, follow me, believe in me, belong to me. Love me, obey me, give your life to me, call me 'Master' and mean it."

And if you are willing to admit that you are bad and need to be rescued. If you are willing to take Jesus at his word and allow yourself to be rescued. If you are willing to follow Jesus in everything, then you are acceptable to God — you have become a Christian.

Here is a prayer to use to clinch it.

Loving God, I admit I am bad and haven't a hope of reaching your standard. I believe Jesus died to rescue me and forgive me. I want to belong to Jesus and follow him all my life. God, help me, for Jesus' sake.

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HOW TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN

Many people when they become Christians strive with all their might to live as Jesus did. But they soon find that this is very frustrating. As hard as they try, they continually fail.

If you take another good hard look at Jesus and his teaching, you will discover the secret. Jesus promised to give us his Spirit to live in us.

Simply allow Jesus Christ, through his Spirit, to live your life for you, all of it, day by day. Watch Jesus succeed where you failed.

Then you will know the love, the joy and the peace which God promised to all Christians.

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