



Becoming a follower of Jesus

In 2004 an ABC news poll showed that 82% of all Americans claim to be Christians (follower of Jesus). Over 40% claim to have trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. According to Jesus, there will be many people on judgment day who think they are going to heaven (they will claim to be Jesus followers) but will be turned away (Matthew 7:21).

It is important to know that doing good works or good deeds does not make you a Jesus follower any more than sitting in a garage makes you a car.

The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸ For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift— ⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast.”

The bible says we aren’t saved by our works, but only by grace through faith.

The reason we need a Savior is because we are all sinners.

The bible says in Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”.

Even though we don’t like to admit that we are sinners if we are honest, we know we are. In fact, let’s look at this 5 question test to see if you’re a sinner.

1. Have you ever told a lie? Y / N
2. Have you ever stolen anything (Music or otherwise)? Y / N
3. Have you ever used “God” or “Jesus” as a curse word? Y / N
4. Have you ever looked at a someone with lustful thoughts? Y / N
5. Have you ever shown disrespect towards a parent or authority figure? Y / N

The Bad News: The result of these questions show how you would stand up when judged with some of God’s commandments. God is perfectly just. If God judged you by His standards would you be guilty or innocent?

Sin separates us from God



Because of sin, we have been eternally separated from God.

“For the wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23

People often tries to do good things to try to bridge the gap. But there are no good works that can save us from our sin.



Because we are saved by grace, nothing we can do can “bridge” the gap. Even though many may boast about the works they do as a way to get them to heaven, it still doesn’t change the fact that they can’t get to heaven by their works.

The Solution: The Good News! The gospel!

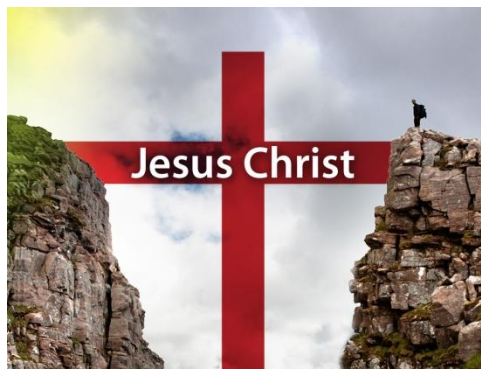
Think of it this way...Imagine you’re in a courtroom, your guilty of many serious crimes. The judge says, “It’s a fine of \$5,000,000 or prison.” You don’t have anywhere near that amount of money, so they begin to walk you out of the courtroom when someone you don’t even know appears. He runs up to the judge with a check and says, “I’ve paid the fine for you.” Now that the fine has been paid, the law no longer has any hold on you. You’re free – because of the gift you were given. **This is what God did for you by sending Jesus to die on the cross in your**

place. So that you wouldn't have to go to hell, God sent His Son, Jesus, suffering the punishment that justice demands. Then He rose from the grave, forever defeating death!

The Bible tells us "16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes (trusts) in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

If you will turn (repent) from your sins and put your trust in Jesus alone, God says He will forgive all your sins and grant you the gift of everlasting life because the payment for your sins was made by Jesus on the cross.

Romans 10:9-10 "9 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 One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation."



You can put your trust in Christ through prayer right now. God knows your heart so the words of the prayer are not magical, but if they reflect the decision you would like to make you can use it to express your faith in God.

"Lord, I confess to you that I am a sinner and that I am separated from you. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. I want to turn from my sins and put my trust in Jesus Christ. Please forgive me of my sins and grant me your gift of eternal life. Amen"

If you have turned (repented) from your sins and trusted in Jesus the Bible says you are now a new person.

"17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!" II Corinthians 5:17.

