



Week One

The Christian Way



What is a Christian?

- **One who is reconciled to God through Christ**, who has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself – a world alienated from God. [2 Corinthians 5:16-21]
- **One who believes in Jesus Christ** as the Way, the Truth and the Life, and trusts in him as Savior and Lord, and the Son of the living God, understanding that the Lord does not want any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. [2 Peter 3:9]
- **One who loves God**, because God first loved us, believing that we are saved through faith and by God's grace, not by works. [1 John 4:19; Ephesians 2:8-9]
- **One who follows Jesus** by responding to the call "Follow me!" We strive to be his disciple every day and in every sphere of life. [Mark 1:16-20]
- **One who worships the triune God** and is baptized into the body of Christ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. [Matthew 28:18-20]
- **One who proclaims the gospel** by word, deed and example, serving as God's ambassador to the ends of the earth, joyfully sharing the good news of God's kingdom with others.

A Christian is someone who has been forgiven and set free to live a new life by a loving God made known to us in Jesus Christ of Nazareth, thus being born again and adopted into God's family. We believe in God truly when we have the faith of a child. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good in Christ, becoming a new creation. Our broken relationship with God is restored by Christ's ministry of reconciliation. For in Christ, God has reconciled the world to himself.

How does one become a Christian?

1. Repent

Sin is alienation from God. The first step toward becoming a Christian is to humbly acknowledge that each one of us is alienated from God, and that we therefore need to repent. To repent in Greek means "to change one's mind" or "to turn around and go another way." We repent because we have not lived up to the image of God in us. We repent for putting our trust and sense of security in the idols of this world rather than in the living God. In repentance we understand that God's desire is to forgive us and heal us. God has taken the first step in restoring this broken relationship by sending Jesus Christ to reconcile us to God and to one another. The gospel, or "good news", is that God is not some distant entity but Immanuel, "God with us".



2. Believe



The word “believe” in the original Greek is much stronger than the English word. It literally means, “I believe into”, meaning, an initiation and commitment for life. It means believing in Jesus Christ and betting your life on him. The story goes that there was a little boy who after seeing the Great Blondin* cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope, exclaimed, “You’re the greatest!” Blondin responded, “You really believe that?” The boy replied enthusiastically, “Yes, sir!” Blondin asked the boy, “Do you believe in me enough to ride on my shoulders as I walk across and back?” The boy disappeared.

* *The Great Blondin*, taken from "Monsieur Blondin Crossing Niagara On A Rope, Dressed As An Ape, July 14, 1859." From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, New York: August 6, 1859.

3. Accept

The third step is to accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, and commit to “leaving our nets” and following him. To accept Christ is to reject the world with all of its claims and in all of its forms, rejecting all human loyalties and tribalisms. It is to accept that in life and in death, we belong to God.



What are some essential Christian practices?

1. **We meditate**, reflecting on and living out God’s Word in the Bible.
2. **We pray**, discovering the joy of conversation with our heavenly Father.
3. **We worship**, glorifying God and communing with God’s beloved community.
4. **We testify**, sharing with others our new spiritual life with enthusiasm and love.
5. **We witness** to the reign of God, fearing no powers or principalities, proclaiming God’s peace, justice and reconciliation.
6. **We fellowship**, delighting in life together with fellow Christians.
7. **We yield**, seeking to be led by God’s will for our life, and seeking the counsel of more mature Christians to help guide us.
8. **We serve**, recognizing the importance of active service in and through the Church as a family of faith, for Christ came to serve, not to be served.
9. **We tithe**, investing generously and cheerfully at least 10% of our income in God’s kingdom, remembering that all that we have belongs to God. In our world, materialism and financial security are major idols. It is thus better to be faithful in another church than to be less than faithful at Church of All Nations.
“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” (Malachi 3:10)
10. **We love**, because God first loved us.
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)