

RIVER BIBLE COURSE

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I'VE BECOME A CHRISTIAN - THIS IS HOW

Study 1 - Conversion

You've become a Christian. You've been received into a personal, living relationship with God. That's tremendous! Welcome to the family of God. But what did you actually **do** to become a Christian? Did you please God by doing some noble or holy act? Did you go through an elaborate religious ceremony, or join a particular church?

I DIDN'T BECOME A CHRISTIAN BY DOING THESE!

1/ It is a common idea that if we do enough good deeds we may impress God and be saved. Does the Bible agree with that? Read Titus 3: 4-5 and Luke 18: 10-14, then tick the correct box.

Bible agrees

Does not agree

2/ From ancient times until now people have performed religious ceremonies and observed special "holy days," rituals and traditions. See God's opinion of these in Isaiah 1: 13-14. Why do you think God feels like this?

3/ Others say, "Everyone that believes in God is a Christian," but that's not necessarily so. You don't become a Christian just by agreeing **about** him. Write James 2: 19 here:

I BECAME A CHRISTIAN WHEN I TOOK THESE STEPS

You will remember that you made a decision in your heart, and that you prayed, and perhaps went to the front of a church, or spoke to someone privately. But now as you look back, when everything is boiled down, **exactly what** did you do?

Step 1

You realised and **ACKNOWLEDGED** before God that your life was sinful in his sight, and that you needed to get right with him. This is the first step to becoming a Christian. There is no exception. Fill in the missing words from the following verses:

"As it is written: there is _____ not even _____" (Romans 3: 10)

"For _____ have sinned and _____ of the glory of God" (Romans 3: 23)

Step 2

You **BELIEVED** that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and therefore able to save us from our human condition. Fill in the gap from John 20:31.

"These are written that you may believe that _____
_____, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Furthermore, not only did you believe in who he is, you believed in what he has done. Look up 1 Peter 3: 18 and Romans 10: 9.

You believed that he _____ for our sin. You believed that he _____ again.

As if that was not enough! In John 11:25,26 Jesus makes an amazing claim. Do you still believe him?

I believe

I don't believe

Step 3

You **REPENTED**.

It was not necessarily an emotional experience. It was a decision. You confessed your sin to God and you made a solemn, determined decision to **turn** from self centred, sinful living. Write down Proverbs 28: 13.

Sometimes preachers forget to stress the vital importance of this step, but what happens to a person who fails to repent?

(Luke 13: 3) _____

Does God overlook or "let off" any who don't repent? (Acts 17: 30) _____

Can our sins be wiped out without first having to repent? (Acts 3: 19) _____

Step 4

You **RECEIVED** Jesus Christ into your life by praying and asking him in. Jesus says in Revelation 3: 20,

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ..."

Someone might ask, "but how can Christ live in you?" The explanation is in the missing words from Ephesians 3: 16-17.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through _____

_____ so that Christ may _____ through faith."

Now write John 1: 12 here and **learn it off by heart**.

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It won't be long before you get asked, "How can I become a Christian too?" What will you say? Summarise in a few words the four steps which need to be made in order to become a Christian.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

DOUBLE CHECK

You've become a Christian. Now you are looking at the decision that you made in the light of day - looking at exactly what it was all about. Did you really mean it? If you did, pray a prayer like this: "Father in heaven, I want you to know that I really meant my decision to become a Christian. I understand the implications of what I did, and I confirm the steps which I took. Thank you for saving me and receiving me into relationship with you.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

Answers here:

www.5loaves2fishes.net/pdfs/answers.pdf