

Christian?

If I were to ask you what does the world in general think it means to be a Christian, what would you say?

What do you think it means to be a Christian? At its most basic what do you need to do to be a Christian?

There are four biblical principles that need to be confronted and dealt with by each person in order to be a genuine Christian.

The first biblical principle is that there is a God who created you and who loves you.

God created and has authority over the entire world

“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.” Colossians 1:16 (NIV)

God created you individually

“The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4 (NIV)

God loves you

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)

God desires to know you personally

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3 (NIV)

The second biblical principle is that each and every person is naturally spiritually dead and separated from God.

Sin is fact of life for everyone in the world

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23 (NIV)

Sin is a fact of life for you

“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” Psalm 51:5

Spiritual death entered into the world through Adam

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12 (NIV)

The third biblical principle is that Jesus Christ is the only way a person can become spiritually alive.

Since we are under a spiritual death penalty we need a sacrifice to pay that penalty

“²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” Hebrews 9:22 (NIV).

Jesus was the only person who ever lived who could provide that sacrifice for everyone who lived because he was both God and a man.

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,” Colossians 2:9 (NIV)

Jesus gave up his life as a sacrifice for us to pay for our spiritual death penalty that was caused by our sin.

“⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (NIV)

Jesus rose from the dead proving he was who he said he was.

“³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.” 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (NIV)

Jesus himself said that he is the only way to have spiritual life.

“⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 (NIV)

The fourth biblical principle is that you have to individually decide to receive the spiritual life Jesus offers.

God desires that each and every person received the gift of salvation Jesus offers.

“⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Each person has to individually receive the gift of salvation Jesus Christ offers.

“¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” John 1:12–13 (NIV)

Each person has to receive the gift of salvation by trusting (faith) in Jesus Christ the God-man alone for salvation.

“⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV)

Based on this discussion on a scale of 1 to 100 how confident are you that if you died to tonight that you would go to heaven?

Based on this discussion suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?

If in your heart you answered anything other than that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation, I want to challenge you to make that decision right here and now don't wait.

“I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:2b