

HOW CAN WE BE RECONCILED TO GOD?

Do you want to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

A short biblical guide to understanding and responding to the Gospel

Salvation begins with understanding the Gospel. Christianity is not first about becoming more religious or trying harder to be good. It is the good news that God has acted in Jesus Christ to rescue sinners, reconcile us to Himself, and give eternal life to all who repent and believe.

1. THE PROBLEM: SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

God is holy and righteous, but every person has sinned. Sin is more than mistakes; it is rebellion against God's rightful rule. Because God is just, sin brings guilt, spiritual death, and judgment. We cannot erase our guilt by good works, religion, morality, or self-improvement.

Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23a - "For the wages of sin is death..."

John 3:18 - Whoever does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's only Son.

Diagnostic question: If I stood before a holy God on the basis of my own righteousness, could I make myself innocent? Scripture's answer is no. We need a Savior.

2. GOD'S SOLUTION: JESUS CHRIST

God did not leave us in our sin. In love, He sent His Son. Jesus lived the righteous life we failed to live, died for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead. At the cross, Christ bore the judgment sin deserves; in the resurrection, God publicly vindicated His Son and announced Christ's victory over sin and death.

Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made the sinless Christ to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

THE GOSPEL IN ONE SENTENCE

We are sinners who cannot save ourselves, but God saves by grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; therefore, turn to Christ and trust Him.

THE ABC OF SALVATION

The ABCs are not a magic formula. They are a simple way to summarize the biblical response to the Gospel: **repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.** (Acts 20:21)

A

ADMIT - I AM A SINNER AND I NEED A SAVIOR

Agree with God's verdict about sin. Do not excuse it or compare yourself with others. Biblical repentance means a change of mind and heart that turns from sin and turns toward God. We come honestly, knowing we cannot rescue ourselves.

Luke 18:13 - "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Acts 3:19 - "Repent, then, and turn to God..."

B

BELIEVE - TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST AND HIS FINISHED WORK

To believe is more than agreeing that Jesus existed. Saving faith relies on who Jesus is and what He has done. Trust that He died for your sins, rose from the dead, and is sufficient to save you. Salvation is God's gift of grace, not a reward for good works.

John 3:16 - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - We are saved by grace through faith, not by works.

C

CONFESS - CALL ON JESUS AS LORD

Confession is the outward expression of inward faith. You openly acknowledge Jesus as Lord and call upon Him to save you. This is not merely repeating words; it is entrusting yourself to the risen Christ and submitting to Him as Lord.

Romans 10:9 - "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:13 - "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "RECEIVE CHRIST"?

John 1:12 says that those who **receive Him** - those who believe in His name - are given the right to become children of God. Receiving Christ is not receiving a religious object or merely saying a prayer. It means personally relying on Jesus, welcoming His rightful rule, and trusting Him as the only Savior.

Repentance and faith belong together: we turn *from* sin and self-rule, and we turn *to* Christ in faith.

ARE YOU READY TO TRUST CHRIST?

You are not saved because you can pray perfect words. You are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. If this expresses the sincere response of your heart, you may speak to God in words like these:

PRAYER OF FAITH

"Lord Jesus, I come to You knowing that I am a sinner and I cannot save myself. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You. Forgive me, cleanse me, and be the Lord of my life. I receive Your grace and the new life You give. Help me follow You from this day forward. Thank You for saving me by Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen."

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST CHRIST?

Forgiven	In Christ, your sins are forgiven. (Ephesians 1:7)
Justified	God declares the believer righteous through faith. (Romans 5:1)
Reconciled	You are brought from hostility into peace with God. (Romans 5:10-11)
New Life	In Christ, you become a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
God's Family	Through faith in Christ, you are received as God's child. (John 1:12)

YOUR NEXT STEPS

- 1. Tell someone.** Let a mature Christian or church leader know that you have trusted Christ.
- 2. Read the Bible.** Begin with the Gospel of John and learn who Jesus is.
- 3. Pray daily.** Speak honestly with God and learn to listen through His Word.
- 4. Be baptized.** Follow Jesus publicly in water baptism as an act of obedience and identification with Him.
- 5. Join a local church.** Grow in worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and mission.

Prepared as a basic Gospel and salvation guide for Family Life Community Church (FLCC). Scripture quotations are brief excerpts/paraphrases for teaching; read the full passages in context.