

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Does a person become a Christian by:

- 1) Saying a “sinner’s prayer”? or
- 2) By “accepting Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior”?

Many Christian faith traditions believe the answer to these two questions is, “Yes!” While both of these things, saying a “sinner’s prayer” and “accepting Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior” are, without a doubt, good things to do, they are not, however, the way in which a person becomes a Christian. In fact, nowhere does the Bible say that one becomes a Christian by saying a “sinner’s prayer” or by accepting Jesus into your heart as your “personal Lord and Savior.” So...

What Does the Bible Say?

How does the Bible tell us we become a Christian? What does it say about becoming a member of the Body of Christ (a Christian)? Well, let’s look and see:

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...”

Galatians 3:27

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Colossians 2:11-12

“In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with Him in baptism...”

The Bible tells us that we become members of the Body of Christ - Christians - not by saying a “sinner’s prayer” or accepting Jesus into our hearts as our “personal Lord and Savior,” but through Baptism. We were baptized into one body. Which body? The Body of Christ!

The passage from Colossians even makes the connection for us between circumcision and Baptism. Just as one entered into covenant with God through circumcision in the Old Testament, so now, in the New Testament era, one enters into covenant with God through Baptism.

Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

The Bible says, “YES!”

Titus 3:5

“...He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit.” Baptism!

John 3:5

“Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” Baptism! When Jesus was baptized, what do we see? Water and the Spirit. And after He talks to Nicodemus in John 3, what does He do? He goes out and baptizes (John 3:22) - Water Baptism!

1 Peter 3:20-21

“...when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you...”

We are saved “through water” - the waters of Baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit!

How does one become Christian?

We become Christian by virtue of our Baptism into the Body of Christ.

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