

What is the Christian life?

Introduction

There are many view points and differences of opinions of what a Christian is.

This booklet takes an orthodox view point of what it is based on what The King James Bible says about it.

I promote no theories but let The Bible speak for itself.

I start off by describing how to become a Christian
 I next talk about the attitudes a Christian need
 I follow this with a discussion of what a Christian is to do
 I then discuss the roles of each member of The Trinity:

The Father, The Lord Jesus The Christ and The Holy Spirit each play a different role in your life. All working harmoniously together as one to help you get to heaven to be with them for eternity.

On my website nevillesalvetti.com are books and articles which go into more detail than what is in the following documents. All are free to read and download

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What is a Christian?

A Christian is a person who follows Jesus Christ as their ruler because of what Jesus has done for them.

You are not going to follow someone unless there is a benefit for you in doing so. You will not follow Jesus unless there is a benefit in it for you.

Christianity is a love relationship between you, The Father in heaven and Jesus and not a religion of do or die where you must perfectly obey the rules or go to hell.

The Father treats you as His child and provides all you need now and in eternity in heaven where there is everything you desire or need provided by Him.

The Lord Jesus treats you as His Citizen providing all you need on earth to do His Will.

The Holy Spirit guides you and uses people to teach you so that you will live as you need too to be go to heaven after you die.

God made you to be His friend and show His Love to you whether or not you are in heaven or on earth. His enemy, tries to destroy all The Father does.

This is why the Christian life is the expression of the love relationship a person has with Jesus and The Father guided by The Holy Spirit.

There are two spiritual kingdoms.

The Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.

The Kingdom of God has everything good in it and the kingdom of Satan tries to corrupt the good of The Kingdom of God and has only evil in it for people.

The Kingdom of God is fully expressed in heaven and in the followers of Jesus son earth.

The kingdom of Satan is in hell and in those he persuades to follow him on earth of which most do not realise they are doing.

The objective of God is to help you get to heaven where He has prepared joys for you beyond your imagination.

The objective of Satan is to take as many people to his kingdom of Hell as he can.

You are the ham in the spiritual sandwich between God and Satan.

Until you become a Christian you live under the control of the kingdom of Satan who hates people and only helps them if it keeps them in his kingdom or furthers his evil purposes.

God is doing all he can do to have you with him in heaven and give you nothing but things you will enjoy while Satan is doing all he can to take you to hell where he can torment you.

After you die you will end up in one place or the other.

The king whose spiritual kingdom you belong to when you die is the one whose spiritual kingdom you go to after you die,

If you are a follower of Jesus you go to heaven.

If you are a follower of Satan you go to hell.

You become a Christian by making Jesus the ruler of your life and by doing what he says which means you must believe in who He is, what He has done, what He will do and that it is worth following him. This makes you a citizen of His Kingdom with all the benefits of heaven now being available to you. It also means you must know these things which requires a willingness to find them out. If you desire to know these things God will make certain you will find out what you need to know about them.

The Bible teaches us that God Loves you and only does what is best for you and that Satan hates you and tries to destroy.

Once you understand why God made you the importance of following Jesus will be seen.

So why did God make you?

God is complete in Himself and does not need you or anything He has created!

You cannot really add anything to God or take away anything from Him.

In a sense we are completely redundant where God is concerned.

God created everything and filled it with angels to serve Him.

Some Jews believe He looked at the angels and said that He had servants but no friends.

So, He created mankind to relate to Him as a friend on an intimate, personal basis and to show His Love for them as their spiritual Father and Creator.

Like any good parent He did what was best for mankind and placed them in a perfect Garden that had all their needs and He would walk in the afternoon and spend time with them (Adam and Eve) and develop the face-to-face friendship He had with them (which will be restored to us in heaven).

Mankind was supposed to live forever with God in this perfect environment but did not do what God said so were evicted from His Kingdom into a world they would now die in.

They suffered the punishment of all who rebel against a King.

Sin is disobedience (rebellion) against the rules of God and His Love for you and says He does not know what is best for you. The rules of God are designed to do only what is best for you..

Satan, whom God considered a servant, saw Adam and Eve were treated differently to Him. There is a difference between the way you treat a servant and a friend. So, Satan conspired to have them doubt God's Love and Authority.

He made them doubt God's Authority so they did what they wanted to do and not what God had commanded them to do.

They doubted God's Love by arousing lust over the fruit God said not to eat and so they ate it.

At one time or another everyone have deliberately rejected God's requirements of them and have been removed themselves from this friendship with God so that when they die, they cannot go to heaven but to the only other place which is hell, where Satan rules, whose chief delight is tormenting people.

It can be seen God desires a relationship with you, which is why He gave you your life, and Satan who tries to destroy this relationship and take away your eternal joy in heaven.

This is why it make sense follow Jesus and reject all Satan does or asks you to do.

Having been separated from God by their disobedience mankind now had a to pay a penalty for the disobedience (punishment) which was death (physically on earth) and spiritually after we die (separation from God \neg we go to hell and not heaven).

God saw that a mortal man could not meet the needs of an infinite, immortal God, so realised He had to do something to meet His requirements of their punishment

Jesus, who is God, died to meet the penalty (punishment) for our sin so that God now sees us as no longer under judgment as the punishment for our rebellion was met by Jesus at Calvary so we can once again relate to Him on an intimate, personal basis.

It can be seen God desires a relationship with you and has done all He can to restore it after you lost it by your disobedience of Him.

This is why it make sense follow Jesus and reject all Satan does or asks you to do

So, how does one become a Christian

Jesus said that salvation is personal, intimate relationship with The Father and Him (John 17:3) guided by The Holy Spirit

So, to become a follower of Jesus you need to:

Follow His requirements to be in that relationship which results from Him becoming the ruler of your life so that you belong to His Kingdom and not that of His enemy Satan who seeks to take you to hell to be with him where he will torment you there forever.

Desire the relationship with Jesus that He desires with you and who does all He can to maintain this relationship so that you can be with Him in heaven when you die.

You need to maintain this relationship until the day you die through obedience to Jesus.

This means:

You need to believe who Jesus is, what He has done, what He is doing now and what He said He will do for you

You need to learn what He requires of you which is found in The Bible which is why you need to study it so you know what Jesus requires of you.

You need to do what He commands of you which The Holy Spirit will show you as He has been sent by The Father to be your guide on earth so that you will avoid all the traps Satan places before you to try and get you to be in hell with him forever!

You need to learn how to relate to The Father and Jesus on a personal basis and not just at a distance as if He is a God who punishes you or rewards you according to what you do. (Jesus looks at your attitudes and not at your results or no one would get to heaven).

God only requires you to wholeheartedly try to live the Christian life and knows we are not perfect and will fail Him but because Jesus met the requirements of any punishment, we would have from the disobedience, we no longer are punished spiritually and only need to wholeheartedly try to stop doing the wrong thing and keep trying to obey Him,

You will not be rejected by God if you fail and wholeheartedly try not to do the wrong thing but will go to hell if you stop trying and give into what is causing you to rebel against God and so keep doing the wrong thing.

God requires you to obey what you know and not what you do not know or others say you should be doing (unless it is what The Bible says you should be doing) otherwise He would not be a God of love.

Sin only occurs if you deliberately do not do what God desires you to do and not do it because you do not know it is wrong.

The Father gives you The Holy Spirit to guide you so you know what is right and wrong so you need to learn how to hear His advice and the teachings of God He gives you understanding of. He is the one who gives you understanding of what God has said in His Bible and how it applies to your life so you need to learn how to hear Him and His Guidance and Teaching.

He will bring people or materials through people to show you what God requires but it is He that gives you understanding of them and how to apply them to your Christian life.

God expects you to try and live as you should but knows you will fail at times which is why He does not judge your actions but your heart attitude and its attitude to the relationship He desires to have with you.

After you die, if you are a Christian, you will go to be with Him in heaven where all the good things God originally made for you and more, are waiting for you so that you will enter into the fullness of the relationship you have with Him and the complete expression of His Love He has for you which was originally shown to mankind when God made mankind and which will be restored in heaven.

Earth is God's training ground for life with Him in heaven so we need to learn the attitudes God desires us to have in heaven which means we need to study and practice these in preparation for eternity with Him so that we do not end up in hell for eternity where Satan, whose delight is to torment people, is ruler.

The choice is yours and you will only have yourself to blame if you do not get to heaven because God will do all He can to help you get there but you must want to go there and believe it is worth following Jesus to get there!

More can be found on my web site nevillesalvetti.com

Email salvettiqn@bigpond.com if you need further information or have a question about the Christian life or anything I have written above.

Some Basics of The Christian life

There are certain basic attitudes needed to live the Christian life.

These are correct attitudes to:

- Faith
- Lordship
- Holiness
- Stewardship
- Expressing the Character of God.

Faith is believing in something you cannot see.

You need faith to believe God exists and everything He said in the Bible is true and that He desires a relationship with you and does what He can for you because He loves you.

Lordship Means you accept Him as ruler of your life.

Holiness means you reject all that would stop you obeying Him.

Stewardship means you look after what He gives you in the way He desires you to.

Expressing the Character of God in all you do.

Now to deal with each a little more.

Faith

Faith is the foundation. It is a belief in something you cannot see but that you know it is real even though you cannot see it. This is the sort of faith you need in:

Who God is,
 What He has said He has done,
 Is doing and
 Will do

As He has declared in The Bible,

And that He is a person who desires to relate to you.

This is different to a faith that is really a hope or desire that you believe will occur but has yet not eventuated. It is called faith but is really a firm hope in that something will happen. Faith knows it will occur and is true.

Lordship

Jesus is King (ruler) of all creation which includes the earth and everything on it.

It means that Jesus rules everything in your life. You allow this because you know He is a good King who has promised to provide everything a good subject needs to live and serve Him and not what they think they need (Matthew 6:33).

You must believe in His Love for you in that all He asks you to do is best for you and best for His Kingdom. Otherwise, you are saying He is not a God of Love by doubting the reasons He asks you to do something for Him.

Holiness

The principle of holiness is that of being wholly devoted to something or someone. In other words, you are devoted to Jesus as your Lord so you reject everything that would make you reject Jesus in any way through deliberately not doing what He asks you to do.

Satan will place things round you in the world system he controls to try and pollute your holiness through trying to make you desire or lust for things of His, which may not be wrong in themselves but which may be what Jesus does not want you to do or be involved in and which may lead to sin. Satan uses this as a wedge to introduce even more ungodly things into your life and at times you will not realise this unless you are listening to The Holy Spirit to see what inputs He allows into your life.

The Holy Spirit has been given to you by Jesus to teach you and guide you through the pitfalls Satan places before you so you need to learn how to listen to Him and also communicate your problems to Him so that He can help you solve them in the way Jesus desires you too.

Sin (which means deliberately not doing what Jesus has told you to do) only occurs if you deliberately reject what Jesus asks you to do.

Jesus expects you to do what you know and not what you do not know.

Stewardship

Stewardship involves looking after everything God has given you to look after for Him.

He created everything and has given His created things for you to use and care for on His behalf.

This means you need to ask Him what to buy, sell and do with what He allows you to have as He is the owner of all you use, including your life.

Satan will try to have you obtain things you do not need so that you have to look after them and by this take time away from what you should be for Jesus and His Kingdom.

Correct stewardship results in not be burdened by caring for things you do not really need and by this reducing your effectiveness as a Christian and your rewards you would have obtained in heaven. It also makes it hard for God to fully bless someone who is not fully doing His work.

There is nothing wrong with having things to work and play as long as it is what you need and not more. God is economical and expects us also to be economical which we will be if we follow His examples.

The Character of God

Jesus only gave us one commandment in regard to attitudes. Which is to love others (which includes Him) in the way He Love us.

Joh 13:3 (MKJ) I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another.

Joh 13:35 By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another.

We are told that you will meet all God's requirements if you have this quality of love for others and God!

(KJV) James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

(KJV) Rom 13:6 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

So you need you consider what The Bible defines as God's Quality of Love and then practice it.

Love usually requires denying yourself in an area to help another so it is a sacrifice when practice which God approves of and will reward you for.

Work of a Christian

Jesus the following:

(MKJV) Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He has sent.

(Peshitta) Yeshua answered and said to them: "This is the service of God, that you trust in him whom he has sent."

In other words, a Christian should devote their energies to trusting Jesus and doing what He said.

A Christian represents Jesus and His Kingdom and that is the main expression of their activity.

It takes various forms:

- Evangelism
- Spiritual warfare/exorcism of Christians
- Mentoring/discipling
- Teaching
- Whatever Jesus tells you to do.

So, you need to learn how to do these things which means attending a church that does these things where you can learn these things.

The roles of each person in The Trinity

There is one God but there are three distinct persons in Him.

The Father, The Lord Jesus and The Holy Spirit.

Each are equally God and can do anything

But each person in The Trinity has chosen a specific role.

All are united as one but express the work of God in a different area.

They all work in perfect harmony in all they do.

They appear to do different work but it is still the one God working and not one of the persons independently of the other,

We cannot understand this mystery of The Trinity as we are not God. We just have to accept how God shows Himself to us.

The Father

He rules heaven which is why we need to be in a relationship with Him to get to be with Him in heaven.

He provides all we need and has angels to use to help us live as a Citizen of The Kingdom of God.

Jesus said we were to pray to The Father and not to Him or The Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ

He rules the universe. He maintains all things and protects us and puts in place the things around us so we can do The Work of a Citizen of The Kingdom of God on earth.

He has given us authority over His enemy, Satan, so we can fight Satan and live the Christian life in spite of Satan trying to destroy us so we will not go to heaven but to his kingdom of hell.

The Holy Spirit

He is the one who guides us and teaches us to live The Christian life and gives people the ability to do miracles and remove the attacking demons, healing any spiritual damage they do and at times any physical damage where possible.

A single woman may become pregnant through sin and will have the spiritual consequences of the sin dealt with but will still have to suffer the physical consequences of the sin (childbirth) but will be helped by The Holy Spirit to deal with the consequences of this sin on earth.

So when you pray you ask The Father for your needs, The Holy Spirit guides you in this prayer and Jesus carries out what is needed by this prayer on earth if it is the Will of God.

What is the purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth?

The first question is:

What is the church?

There is only one true church which consists of the unity of all followers of Christ on earth and in heaven. They are all citizens of The Kingdom of God and not a church which is in heaven and on earth in its citizens.

It is one harmonious body working for the purposes of The Kingdom and is not represented by the denominational church which is manmade and divides this unified body.

Remember all are spiritual children of The Father and all belong to the one spiritual family. The denomination divides this spiritual family by replacing The Kingdom of God with itself.

Denominations are the work of the enemy of God trying to destroy the unity the true church has so it will not do the work of God as it should but is fragmented as each denomination seeks to do God's work its own way.

This is why you need to find a church that represents The Kingdom of God and seeks the unity its followers have and which does not follow a denominational so do not belong to it because they belong to The Kingdom of God.

People of The Kingdom of God may attend a denominational church but follow Jesus and not the denomination or minister of the church.

The church has the same purposes as a Citizen of The Kingdom of God but is like a covering for the Citizens of The Kingdom as it is ruled by Jesus who protects the people in it because they are His Citizens doing His work.

How do you learn about God?

All we need to know about God is taught in his bible

The Holy Spirit gives us understanding of it and we learn by:

Reading the bible and meditating on it

Listening to the teachings of Godly people as they teach The Bible

Any other way God uses to teach you such as the life experience of others Whatever inputs we have the holy spirit is the one that gives us understanding and properly interprets what the Bible says.

We are told that if you desire to learn about God He will help you in this.

John 7:17 (MKJV) If anyone desires to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it is of God, or I speak from Myself.

If you really want to live the Christian life then you need to learn and study about it and you will only do this if you want to do it.

Closing Comments

If you really desire to live the Christian life it becomes an adventure in serving God and developing the relationship with Him that He desires to have with you.

The Culmination of a live correctly live is to be in heaven with Jesus and The Father you love so dearly. To ignore the Christian life or half-heartedly live it means you will end up with God's enemy, Satan, in the hell he has prepared for mankind and in which he loves to torment the people he blames for being placed in hell.

Appendix A What is friendship

What is a friend? A friend is someone whom you like, appreciate and respect for who they are and not for what they can do for you

Is friendship with God different to friendship with others?

All friendship has the same qualities. It is just the degree of the relationship that makes up a friendship varies according to the type of friendship and which affects the quality of the components of friendship.

Friendships can be casual, close or intimate and according to the degree of relationship will be how much is disclosed of yourself to that friend which is why the most intimate friendship is with a wife and with God where you are close to each other and tell each other things that are extremely intimate.

It is the closeness of the relationship that determines what you are willing to share to the other person in the friendship.

In a very close or intimate friendship you spend time with each other sharing your heart and thoughts. Helping each other and enjoying each other's Company

You serve and encourage the other person and you like to spend time with them

Jesus is ruler of the earth and creation and The Father rules heaven. So, at times we will approach them in this capacity.

But they also want to be our friends which is why God walked in the afternoon talking to Adam and Eve. This is how He wants to relate to us as our friend! Not as a king you must bow to but as a friend you walk beside them and talk to them.

Most of the time this is the friendship God desires with us and not the Lord/Master relationship which is legalistic and has no love in it except in our attitude that makes us obey.

This is what you must learn to develop and it is only by doing this and learning to listening to Jesus, The Father and The Holy Spirit that you will maintain the relationship necessary for salvation.

You do not need to talk out loud to them His presence is in your spirit because the presence of The Holy Spirit is in you so you can talk in your heart to Him. He will reply, usually by thoughts placed in your mind and rarely will you hear His voice.

He said He would never leave you or forsake you so that He is always there to talk too.

Satan will try to place thoughts in your mind but they will not give you peace and there may be a check in your spirit. Whatever Satan suggests will be against what Jesus says to do.

There is nothing you cannot say to Jesus because He knows everything about you.

As you go through the day learn to have a continual dialogue with Jesus and The Father and you will find the days change for the better.