

Basics of the Christian life

The starting point for Christianity is to come to appreciate God's Love for you and what it has done and is doing for you so that you desire to follow Him. All He asks is that you love Him wholeheartedly and obey His Laws because of this Love and not because of fear of punishment.

God is The ultimate absolute

God is the basis of all things.

He creates everything

Sustains it

Energises everything

Gives them life

Give them purpose.

Anything outside of these parameters is a god and we know there is only one God so that nothing can exist or function unless it is in God.

Two most amazing things are

He created us for our pleasure. He did not need to create us but did so for our benefit.

He desires an intimate, personal, relationship with us.

This is why salvation is a relationship (Jn 17:3) and not just an activity to please God. The activities - Lordship and obedience - are a result of this relationship because of love and appreciation for what God has done for us. If love for God and appreciation of what He has done for you is not the basis of your relationship with God then it is built on a wrong basis.

God's nature is Love or we would not have been created to be with Him and to enjoy all the good things we need to exist and enjoy His company. God did not make us because He needed us but for the pleasure we would have in the relationship with Him.

Maintaining our side of the relationship

Salvation is a relationship so we must maintain our side of it and learn to develop the relationship we have with each member of The Trinity.

The word 'Trinity' means that there are three persons in God, each with their own personality but each acting in unison as if there is only one person and one God.

The Father provides all we need

The Lord Jesus protects us and tells us what He desires us to do for His Kingdom and delegates to us the ability to defeat His enemy

The Holy Spirit communicates to us God's Will, gives us understanding of the things of God and guides and empowers us to do them as well as giving us an understanding of what God desires of us.

The relationship God desires with you is a personal, intimate, one.

How do you develop an intimate relationship?

You spend time with them Him sharing your heart and serving Him out of your love for Him

They respond the same way to you

You spend time learning about each other and how to give them pleasure

You desire the relationship so much that it consumes you at times

You do nothing inappropriate in the relationship but always do what Love would do.

You need to learn how to hear God responding to you.

So how is this relationship maintained?

You need faith in God that He is worth relating to

Lordship to serve and obey Him as he desires you to

Holiness so you focus only on the relationship with Him and its requirements of you

Stewardship is correctly maintained on what ever He gives you to do or maintain for Him

You defend the other person and the relationship because you consider it is worthwhile having

All this is expressed in God's Character you desire so much you try to emulate it.

Faith

Without faith it is impossible to please God because everything we need to believe in we cannot see. We may see the results of our faith but only in heaven will we see it in its fullness.

The whole Christian life is really an attitude of Faith which we act on in all we do and its character expresses God's Quality of Love.

Even in heaven we will need faith to believe in that what God is doing there He will never stop doing.

Lordship

If Jesus is in command of all you do then you will not do anything against His Will.

Jesus will only be your Lord to the extent you desire this to be which will depend on how much you Love Him. We are in a Love relationship with God and all should be done out of our Love for Him. Any other reason is a wrong motive and we need to examine ourselves to see what quality of love we have for Jesus.

Holiness

If we reject everything Satan suggests we do we will retain our holiness. Satan has to convince us to accept what he suggests for us to sin and remove us from our holy relationship with God.

So the key to holiness is to reject every wrong thought and bring it to Jesus to deal with asking The Holy spirit to replace it with the thought Jesus desires you to have.

Satan places suggestions in your mind to displace what the Holy Spirit is saying to you or uses people to suggest things to you that he tries to have you accept.

The problem occurs when Satan suggest things to do that are good in themselves but not God's Will for you so that people are side tracked from what God desires them to do.

This is why we need to be guided by The Holy Spirit in all we do and why we need to learn how to hear Him clearly.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Stewardship

Everything we have has been given to us by God to look after for Him. He made what they are made of and is their owner and has trusted us with their care on His behalf. So we must correctly care for what He gives us:

Our faith

Our life

Our Will and our thoughts

Our relationships

Ministry given to us

Things trusted to us by God

Our stewardship of The Kingdom of God

Spiritual warfare

We are at war with Satan as we live on the earth he controls and does everything he can to destroy the relationship We have with god and lose out eternal life.

There are four aspects to this

Defending the King's Name, Character and Will

Evangelism - removing people from the enemy kingdom

Deliverance- removing the effects of the enemy kingdom on citizens of The Kingdom

Warring against the enemy- destroying and hindering the plans and works of the enemy

This is the responsibility of all citizens of The Kingdom of God and if you are not doing any of these then you had better ask yourself why. You may even not be a citizen of The Kingdom But Only A Church Goer. there Is A Difference.

The only valid reasons for not warring are

Resting from the battle

Learning how to battle

Jesus says not to battle at that time.:

Do not confuse denominational membership with Citizenship of The Kingdom of God. Joining a denomination does not make you a citizen of The Kingdom but only a member of a denomination. It is the salvation relationship you have with Jesus that makes you a citizen of The Kingdom of God.

Citizen of The Kingdom of God

A Christian is a good citizen of The Kingdom of God. It is your responsibility to maintain your side of the citizen relationship. God helps you every way He can but it is up to you to accept His help and to do His Will.

As a citizen of The Kingdom of God you have:

- Rights

- Roles

- Responsibilities in these roles

- Rewards for performing these roles correctly

These are all given by Jesus and are plainly explained in The Bible

The Family of God

When you become a citizen of The Kingdom of God you also become a member of his family. The Father adopts you as his child and He becomes your spiritual Father and Jesus becomes your step-brother, The Holy Spirit is like wise uncle and He is your mentor on earth to guide you to live and keep this family relationship.

Eternal life results from this relationship (Jn 17:3).

The Christian life is not “obey Jesus or go to hell”. It is more ”love and appreciate The Father and Jesus and what they has done for you and obey Him out of this love and He will take you to be with Him when you die.

So the objective of the Christian life is to maintain this intimate and personal relationship with The Father and Jesus and serve them out of this love for them.

The Father also sanctifies you (sets you apart for His purposes) and The Holy Spirit’s presence is placed in your spirit. The God of this universe places a part of Him in you! This is another reason to live a holy life.

the work of the citizen

These can be divided up into four main areas

- Relating to God correctly

- Promoting The Kingdom

- Spiritual Warfare

- Serving God correctly

All the activities of a Christian falls into one of these four areas.

The only exception is for resting from your service or learning about how to do a part of it.

The last words of Jesus in Summary

Jesus never asked us to do anything He did not do and which we could not do.

His example was as follows (Matthew 4:23):

*And Jesus went about all Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues,
and preaching the gospel of the kingdom,
delivering people from the effects of Satan on them
and healing all manner of **sickness** (short term sickness)
and all manner of **disease** among the people (long term chronic illness).*

This is what our objectives should be:

The last words of Jesus to His people can be summarized as follows:

"All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations I have risen,
Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you
And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in My name
among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall
be damned.*

And these signs shall follow them that believe;

*In my name shall they cast out devils;
They shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents;
And if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; They shall lay hands
on the sick, and they shall recover
And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

These actions will be observable in the life of a follower of Jesus as an expression of God's quality of Love in them working through them to others. God will tell you when to do them so you do not assume that is all you for Him all the time.

Jesus said that if we loved Him we would keep His commandments which mean we should be able to do the above when He tells us too. If you are not doing them or not desiring to do them when you can then you need to find out why and correct any wrong attitudes you have towards Jesus.

God's Attitude to you

God Loves you and accepts you as you are and not as you or others say you should be. And He begins where you are with what you have been given by Him to mature you into His Character.

He would not be Love if He did not do this.

All He asks is that you wholeheartedly try to obey Him.

He knows we are dust and not perfect and will do wrong at times. All He requires is for you to wholeheartedly repent and to try and do what is correct.

He declares that at Calvary all the spiritual consequences of sin were removed so that there is nothing stopping you re-entering the salvation relationship you had with Him before you sinned.

There may be physical consequences such as a child born to a single mother but He will help you deal with the consequences of any wrong action. Jesus never rejects you. You reject yourself or believe Satan's lies that Jesus has rejected you.

The deliverance ministry may be needed to remove the influence of Satan on you.

God will judge you for what you did with what He gave you and not what He gave someone else. So it is important to know what God has given you and how to use it.

You will not go to hell for wholeheartedly trying and failing. You will go to hell for not wholeheartedly trying, for not using correctly what Jesus gave you to be of a steward of for Him.

The king you are obeying at the time of your death is the one to whose kingdom you go when you die.

Most people are in hell because they:

Would not forgive another

Did not want to give up a sin (Repent)

They rejected the Lordship of Jesus

They did not show His Quality of Love to those that needed it.

It is only as you finish the race do you receive the reward!

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Mat 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Baptism

Baptism is a public confession that you are following Jesus as your Lord. It is done either by immersion in water or pouring water over you where immersion is not possible. This is how the early church did it as instructed by The Apostles under the instruction of Jesus.

Communion

This is a gathering of Christians to celebrate the redemption The Father obtained for us through the death of Jesus. This is how Jesus taught the early church to celebrate it. It is a ceremony of praise and worship of The Father and Jesus and His death was not mentioned,

Both the above can be found in the 'Didache' which is a record of what Jesus told the apostles to teach the early church.

The Rapture

Jesus coming back very soon to snatch away His people and take them to heaven. Left behind are all those that rejected Him to be ruled by The devil in a time of utter destruction of his world system as Satan's infrastructure is removed so Jesus can build His.. Jesus will then return to rule the earth for 1000 years where the devil will be in a prison so he cannot attack the Christians

After 1000 years he is released causing a last great battle between him and Jesus where the earth is destroyed by fire and new heavens and earth is formed where God's Kingdom is and all will be as it was when mankind was originally created..