

# How Do I Become A Christian?

## Examples and Teachings

The decision to become a Christian is the most important decision you could ever make! It is worth taking time to pray and think carefully about making a commitment to be a Christian.

At the Kings Crossing Church of Christ, one of our goals as a church is to try to do things in ways that Scripture teaches we should do them. We believe this is especially true of how we use the New Testament, which contains Jesus' teachings about the Church.

In Scripture, some things Christians are **clearly and specifically urged to do**, such as to “pray for one another” (James 5:16). Other things we aren't specifically urged to do a certain way, but we see **patterns in the behavior of the early Christians** in Scripture and believe their patterns are worth imitating. For example, we can observe from very early that Christians started calling Sunday “the Lord's Day” (Revelation 1:10) and that they got together regularly to take communion (“break bread”) and remember the Lord (Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 11:23-26). Following their example, we gather weekly on Sundays and remember Jesus by take communion together as part of our gathering. This study contains both examples and teachings, and we encourage you to look at them all seriously as you consider how you personally should respond to God.

## Part I: Scriptural examples of people becoming Christians

Below are a collection of Scripture references. We want you to study for yourself how a person becomes a follower of Jesus. Each of the passages in the chart are examples in the book of Acts of how the Apostles themselves helped other people to become Christians and be added to God's church. **As you read through each passage, check the boxes in the columns to make notes on how a person became a Christian, according to what the Bible describes.** Though there are possible extreme circumstances where a person comes to Christ on their deathbed, our study here is about what the *normal* way is that people become Christians, according to Scripture.

Scripture Reference	They heard someone teaching about Jesus	They showed evidence of repenting and wanting to change their life	They prayed a prayer to God asking for salvation	They were baptized into Christ	They confessed openly that they believed in Jesus	Another action or element not in previous columns
Acts 2:36-41	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Acts 4:1-4						
Acts 8:9-13						
Acts 8:26-38						
Acts 9:11-19						
Acts 10:30-48						
Acts 13:46-48						
Acts 16:13-15						
TOTAL:						

Scripture Reference	They heard someone teaching about Jesus	They showed evidence of repenting and wanting to change their life	They prayed a prayer to God asking for salvation	They were baptized into Christ	They confessed openly that they believed in Jesus	Another action or element not in previous columns
Acts 16:25-34						
Acts 17:10-12						
Acts 18:7-8						
Acts 19:1-5						
Acts 22: 14-16						
<b>TOTAL:</b>						

What patterns do you see in the ways that people became Christians in the New Testament?

If you were to tell a person how to become a Christian, based on the examples in the New Testament of how people responded to Jesus, what would you tell them that they need to do?

In your life, is there anything you need to do in order to make your response to Jesus in your life look more like the patterns you see in Scripture?

## **Part II: New Testament teachings about becoming a Christian**

Where the book of Acts tells a story about the early years of the Church, the New Testament also contains many letters (called *epistles*) where the Apostles wrote to people in various cities to teach them about living as Christians. Here are several passages where Apostles teach about what occurs when a person becomes a Christian:

### **Romans 6:1-14**

In this passage, Paul implies that at a certain point in their life, a person can become a Christian. At what point does Paul seem to believe a person is a Christian?

After a person has become a Christian, what does Paul teach should be different about their behavior?

### **I Corinthians 12:12-14**

Paul teaches there are certain things that all Christians have in common. What are they?

What does Paul believe about how Christians should relate to one another?

### **Galatians 3:26-28**

Paul teaches that we can be clothed in Christ; wrapped up in his presence. How does this occur?

For all people who have been “clothed” in Christ, what does this mean about the way we should view ourselves? What about the way we view others?

### **Colossians 2:9-15**

Jesus has conquered all evil in the world by the power of his death and resurrection. In the Old Testament, Jews had to be circumcised to be marked as God's people. Paul teaches in this passage that circumcision has been replaced. What has now replaced circumcision as part of how we become God's people?

What blessings does a person experience who has received this new "circumcision"?

### **I Peter 3:18-22**

Peter speaks about Jesus' death and says that for people to be in Christ, it is similar to the way that Noah's family survived the great flood in Genesis 6, and were the only human beings to be saved. What Christian practice does he teach a person should do in order to be saved in our generation?

According to Peter, in speaking about baptism, is the purpose of baptism to get physical dirt off of our bodies?

What does Peter teach is happening inside a person's mind and heart when they are baptized?

## **Conclusion**

Congratulations! If you have completed all the work up to this point, you have read much Scripture and put a lot of thought into what it means. God is honored by your effort, and we are proud of you for wanting to have a better understanding of God's word, and especially, how you can follow God's will for your life.

In this study, what overall themes have you seen in Scripture about becoming a Christian?

Is there anything you now understand a little differently than you did before?

Do you have any questions? Is there something you'd like to do in response to your study?

Please don't hesitate to contact us and let us know your thoughts and questions about any part of this study. We are glad to visit with you.

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