

If you asked any Christian this question you would probably get the answer ~ so you can go to heaven and miss hell after you die. But they think God wants us to be miserable here in this life to learn some lessons. That is the way I was raised. But since I have studied the Bible for myself, I have found this to be a big lie that Satan has perpetuated! God wants us to be healthy, wealthy, and so fulfilled and happy that the rest of the world will want to know our secret. That's the truth, and why I've written most of these brochures to help other people find the truth too.

## Misconceptions

Probably most outsiders to the church world believe several things about church people that are just not true. One popular one is that church is a sort of club where you have to follow a bunch of rules to make it to heaven. Another is that Christians are all hypocrites, pretending to be good guys, and really, they are no better than the average non-church person. And there are probably many variations to those two trains of thought. Would you please allow me to explain to you the truth?

## The Club with Rules

The club with a bunch of rules is a fact in many churches, but it is not what God meant church to be according to the Bible, His Word. True Christianity is a **relationship** with God. But the eternal

spirit inside your body is unresponsive to God. Spiritual things don't make sense. By receiving Jesus, you are *born of God* (or *born again*) and made *alive to God*. I Jn. 5:1-4, I Pet. 1:23, Eph. 2:1 and Jn. 5:24.

## From the Inside Out

As you grow in this relationship with your new heavenly Father (by spending time with Him in daily prayer and reading some in the Bible) you will gradually become what God planned for you to be even before you were born! Most people think that to be a better person you have to work real hard to change yourself. Your own rules or church rules will not change anyone. The way God's way works is our being changed inside first, then the outside changes begin to show. It's being changed by God from the inside out. Rule-following is trying to change from the outside in, and that doesn't work.

## Most will never get it!

God has a wonderful and exciting and fulfilling plan just for you, but most Christians never will experience it because they aren't doing what they are learning from the Bible. **It's the doers of the Word that will experience God's best.** Church teachers and leaders are meant to help us know what the Bible says, and encourage our growth, but it is not our own power that will accomplish that. We hear or read from the Bible what we are supposed to do,

and then we ask the Holy Spirit (our Divine Helper) to help us to do it. And then we have to choose to obey Him when He directs.

For example, if someone is yelling at you, you may feel a check or a restraint inside you. God wants you to be quiet. Now you have to choose to obey, or do what your mind and emotions want to do. Choose to obey the Holy Spirit and you will have His power to help you.

## They're all hypocrites!

The second misconception is that Christians are all hypocrites. Sadly, that is true about a great many of them. A hypocrite pretends to be something he is not. But actually, that is just human nature. Even people who don't go to church or claim to be Christian do that. Nearly everyone puts on an act to impress people, or tells lies to make himself look good.

But that is not what the Bible says church should be! Church is where we should be real. Like a hospital helps sick people, a church is meant to help sinners. How can a person be helped if he hides who he really is? The purpose of church, according to the Bible (Eph. 4:11-16) is to help people grow and mature in their relationships with God and each other. This is the only way you will enter the great life that God has planned especially for you!

Jer. 29:11 “I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” NLT

Matt. 7:11, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him.”

Psa. 34:8-10, “Oh taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who trusts in Him. Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints, for there is no lack to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.” (To fear God is to respect and obey Him.)

If you have wrong ideas about God and believe that He is sitting up there with a baseball bat ready to hit you if you mess up, then you would be doing yourself an immense favor by reading the above verses twice a day until your mind is renewed to the fact of God’s goodness and love.

God is a good God, and He wants to do you good. He has a wonderful life planned out for you, but you need to find out how to qualify. Just because God promised things doesn’t mean they will automatically happen for you. (See my brochure called, *If it’s God’s will, why doesn’t it always happen?*)

## To become a Christian:

### God loves you!

John 10:10, “I have come that they might have life and that more abundantly.”

III Jn. 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that you would prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers.”

### Sin separates us from God.

Rom. 3:23, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Rom.6:23, “The wages of sin is (spiritual) death (separation from God).”

### Jesus solved the problem!

John 3:16, “God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, that who ever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 14:6, “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me.’”

### We accept or receive by faith (believing).

John 1:12, “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

**Pray this:** “Jesus, I believe you died for me and rose again. Forgive my sins, and come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. I turn my life over to you. I thank You that I am saved!” (Now you need, *God wants to make your life beautiful!*)

# Why should I Be a CHRISTIAN?



A Mini Bible Study  
By Cheryl Boone