



Thanks for this picture - Colonial Heights Baptist Church

What is a Christian?

**A Human Being who is not
"Separated from God"**

Lesson 7 - What must we do to become a Christian?

*I grew up in a middle-class family; my parents were not church people; they were honest but still sinners. So was I but I didn't know it. So, I was on that freeway mentioned in Lesson 6. God was doing things in my heart, but I didn't know that either. I just kept rolling down life's road just like everybody else and following my parents' lifestyle - the only lifestyle I knew. **God wanted me** - we moved to a new house. So what, right? Well, there was a new church being built around the corner. I wanted to go to that church; what made me feel like that? God wanted me; I just didn't know it. I went to the church faithfully (all alone); I went to Sunday School; I learned verses and won a Bible. It was good while it lasted but I never was told how to become a Christian. I was going to church but was still rolling down life's road like everybody else.*

***God still wanted me.** Some new neighbors moved in across the street. They hired me to mow their lawn. The lady was a Christian but I didn't know it. What I did know was that she loved me & treated me nice. I was a lonely kid so I liked her attention. **God wasn't done.** My dad was watching Billy Graham on the TV one night. Why was he watching that? We were not Christian people; we did not go to church. I liked the song they were singing; So, I sat down; I was eight years old. Can you believe it? My Dad & I (sometimes, Mom) watched those TV programs together for three years. I heard the message about how to be a Christian many times, but I did not know what to do next. I still was going to the church around the corner.*

Suddenly, I was 11 years old and going into the sixth grade. I was a well-behaved kid most of the time; I had to be or my Dad would have beat me to death. Life happens when you have no purpose or direction. I got sexually molested by a neighbor; I started shop-lifting at the local stores; I began to develop an incredible temper. I was still a loner and I hated myself more and more. The memories of the sexual abuse came to my mind more, and that started my journey toward porno and habits. I had no one to talk to about personal matters. How could an 11-year-old boy be at a dead end in his life already. I was searching for something, but I had no idea what it was.

***God was not done.** I saw a flyer at the church that Billy Graham was coming to town. It sounds crazy, but in my heart, something came to life. I asked my parents if we could go; they were not very public, out-going people; they said "no". I almost died inside. "I had to go. I had to go." What was wrong with me? God was working in my heart, but I didn't know it. I asked friends if they wanted to go with me; one boy just down the street said "yes". They were not church people either. Of course, we were 11; we had no ride clear downtown about 15 miles away. **God was not done yet.** My friend's father offered to take us; my parents actually allowed this. He dropped us off outside the stadium at 6 pm. I took my binoculars so I wouldn't miss anything.*

When Billy Graham said, (1) "You are separated from God because you were born a sinner; (2) Sin can only be paid for by another life; (3) That payment for sin is death; (4) You yourself cannot pay for your sin [otherwise, you would be dead forever]; (5) Jesus came to pay that sin debt; (6) Accept that payment.

*I did that night. That was 65 years ago. I am older now in my body but my heart (my being) is new every day. **God is still not done. My sin debt is forgiven and I am no longer separated from God.***

Romans 5:10 - When we were enemies [separated] , we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, Jesus; being reconciled to God means "we shall be saved by His life".

1. Yes No Did you notice that a "sacrificed life" saved another life.
2. Being an enemy of God is the same as being _____ from God.

Let's learn a new word - "reconciled".

- **"Reconciled" means that two things which were together - separated - & were brought back together.**
3. In the verse above, what two "things" were reconciled when Jesus died? _____
 4. When did this separation happen or begin? (Gen. 3:6) _____
 5. When did this separation [mankind's] end? _____
 6. When did MY personal separation from God end? (I'll answer; the night I accepted Jesus' payment for me.)



Let's look at this picture again.

7. What brought God and man back together? _____

The night I accepted Jesus as my Savior from sin, I walked across that bridge (cross). It was the only way for me to get to God. It is the only way for you get to God too.

Colossians 1:20 - And God was pleased for Jesus to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God.

A Few Key Points

- Jesus died a real death., not a faked event as some have suggested.
- Jesus never sinned so He qualified to be my perfect substitute to pay for my sins.
- Jesus did not stay dead; He rose from the dead on Easter to prove He had power over all death.
- Our Holy God was satisfied with Jesus' payment for sin - so He "reconciled" us. Thank you, God.

Let's Review.

- That night with Billy Graham, I certainly did not have all the answers about God or religion.
- All I knew was that "I was born a sinner" and "I couldn't fix it".
- Jesus could fix it; I let Him do it that night.

Let me be honest. Have you ever thought:

8. Yes No I know I am a sinner (Even though I don't want to admit it.)
9. Yes No I don't want to be separated from God. (I wasn't really wasn't aware of it to be honest.)
10. Yes No Jesus' death was just a story to me. (I guess I didn't really believe it to be true.)
11. Yes No It was a nice thought that Jesus loved me. (Could it possibly be true? Love is hard to find.)
12. Yes No Jesus has forgiven me of everything? (I like it but it's hard to believe.)
13. Yes No I thought doing good things would do it. (Good things from a sinner is still sinfulness.)
14. Yes No I'd better deal with this Christian "thing". (I'm not quite sure what to do.)

ENOUGH OF MY PREACHING; SORRY. JUST READ THE FOLLOWING AND ASK GOD TO LET YOU SEE.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever puts their trust in that Son, Jesus, will not perish (be permanently separated from God), but have eternal life with God.

Romans 5:8 - God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 3:23 - All mankind has sinned (born into it) and have fallen short of the holy standards of God.

Romans 10:13 - Whoever calls on the Lord to ask to have their sins forgiven will have their sins forgiven [guaranteed].

John 5:24 - Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Acts 16:31 - And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Jeremiah 33:3 - Call unto Me and I will answer you, and show you great & incredible things in your life beyond imagination.

15. Yes No Have you asked Jesus to be Savior from sin yet?

16. If no, what issue or concern has kept you from this decision?

17. Yes No Could this decision improve your life? How "yes" or how "no"?
