

# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

Ephesians 4:20–21

# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

**Ephesians 4:17–19**

# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus

**Ephesians 4:20-21**

# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

- I. **A decisive transformation from the past**  
(v. 20a)

# A decisive transformation from the past

But you did not learn Christ in this way

**Ephesians 4:20**

# A decisive transformation from the past

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

**Ephesians 4:17–19**

# **A decisive transformation from the past**

that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

**Ephesians 4:22–24**

# A decisive transformation from the past

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**



# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

- I. **A decisive transformation from the past**  
(v. 20a)
- II. **A personal engagement with Christ**  
(v. 20b–21)

# A personal engagement with Christ

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**Philippians 1:21**

# A personal engagement with Christ

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When **Christ, who is our life**, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**Colossians 3:1–4**

# A personal engagement with Christ

Therefore as you have **received Christ Jesus the Lord**, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

**Colossians 2:6–7**

# A personal engagement with Christ

but **we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a  
stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

**1 Corinthians 1:23**

# A personal engagement with Christ

Now if **Christ is preached**, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

**1 Corinthians 15:12**

# A personal engagement with Christ

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

**Acts 5:42**

# A personal engagement with Christ

For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was  
preached among you by us—by me and  
Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no,  
but is yes in Him.

**2 Corinthians 1:19**



# A personal engagement with Christ

For we do not preach ourselves but **Christ  
Jesus as Lord**, and ourselves as your bond-  
servants for Jesus' sake.

**2 Corinthians 4:5**

# A personal engagement with Christ

**We proclaim Him**, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

**Colossians 1:28–29**

# A personal engagement with Christ

AND when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

# A personal engagement with Christ

For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

**2 Corinthians 2:17**

# A personal engagement with Christ

THEREFORE, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

# A personal engagement with Christ

This is eternal life, that they may know You,  
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom  
You have sent.

**John 17:3**

# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

II. A personal engagement with Christ (v. 20b–21)

**A. Christ is our initiation into salvation**  
(v. 20b)

# Christ is our initiation into salvation

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

**Colossians 1:28**



# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

- II. A personal engagement with Christ (v. 20b–21)
  - A. Christ is our initiation into salvation**  
(v. 20b)
  - B. Christ is our continuation in salvation**  
(v. 21a)

# Christ is our continuation in salvation

Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**Ephesians 2:12–13**

# Christ is our continuation in salvation

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and  
YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

**Matthew 11:29**

# The Curriculum of Christianity is Jesus

- II. A personal engagement with Christ (v. 20b–21)
  - A. Christ is our initiation into salvation**  
(v. 20b)
  - B. Christ is our continuation in salvation**  
(v. 21a)
  - C. Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation** (v. 21b)

# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

**Ephesians 1:13**

# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.

**Ephesians 4:24–25**

# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

(for the fruit of the Light consists in all  
goodness and righteousness and truth),

**Ephesians 5:9**

# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR  
LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE  
BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

**Ephesians 6:14**



# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

**John 14:6**

# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**Philippians 1:21**

# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Galatians 2:20**

# Christ is our integrating centrality of salvation

and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, **but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**

**2 Corinthians 5:15**