

“Christianity Explained: How Do You Become A Christian? (Part 4) [Receive Jesus]”

Here’s today’s emphasis: ***a person becomes a Christian by receiving Jesus into their heart and life.*** We will examine five truths which are all part of receiving Jesus. **First** of all, part of receiving Jesus includes this: ***welcome Jesus into your entire being*** (see Ephesians 3:17). When the Scriptures talk about our “hearts,” it’s not referring to the muscular organ that pumps blood to every vessel in our being. Rather, in the Bible “the heart” represents: the center or core of our entire being; the whole/real person; the inner person with every function that makes a person human; the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, psychological, rational and volitional parts of a person; that which governs all of our actions. So, when we receive Jesus into our hearts and lives He comes into every part, area and sphere of our being. Every fiber of our being now belongs to Him as we welcome His presence, ownership and rulership.

Secondly, part of receiving Jesus includes this: ***recognize Jesus for Who He really is*** (see John 1:10-13; 1:1-3; 1:14; Genesis 1:1). The Apostle John refers to Jesus as “the Word.” Many Scriptures refer to the fact that the world was made by/through the Word (Jesus). John 1 tells us that the people of Jesus’ day came face-to-face with their Creator but failed to recognize who Jesus really was. Those who recognize who Jesus truly is welcome and receive Him and believe in His name, thereby becoming children of God as they are born of God. But those who fail to receive Him reject Him, and those who do so will die in their sins (see John 8:24). **Third**, part of receiving Jesus includes this: ***submit to Jesus Christ as Lord*** (see Colossians 2:6-7; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 28:18). Part of receiving Christ Jesus as Lord is: acknowledging that He is God and you are not; saying that “He is Lord,” and agreeing that He calls the shots, not you; recognizing that He is the Owner of your life and Possessor of your soul and everything belongs to Him; declaring that He is the Master and you are the servant; confessing that He is the Potter and you are the clay; admitting that He has all power and authority over your life. Every soul will end up admitting that Jesus is Lord, but it will be too late for those who come to that realization in eternity. Blessed in this life and blessed for all eternity are those who confess that Jesus Christ is Lord while they yet live upon this earth.

Fourth, part of receiving Jesus includes this: ***live in Christ like you live in the air*** (see 1 John 3:24; 4:13, 15-16). Air is all around us, but it doesn’t do us any good unless it gets in our lungs. So, air is “out there,” but it’s also “in here.” This describes our relationship with Christ. When a person receives Jesus, He goes from being “out there” to being “in here.” But not only is Jesus *in* those who receive Him, they are also now *in Christ*. This means that: He is in us, and we are in Him; He lives in us, and we live in Him; He dwells in us, and we dwell in His presence; we continuously abide in Him and He abides in the believer; we exist in union with Him where we experience intimate spiritual communion with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The only way to show one has union with Christ is by imitation of Him. We cannot claim to abide in Him unless we behave like

Him, and love is the identifying hallmark. **Fifth**, part of receiving Jesus includes this: ***make your heart His home*** (see John 14:1-3, 6, 27, 23; Revelation 3:20). As the “host” of our lives, we welcome Jesus in as a “Guest”—but then He immediately takes over and occupies every ounce of space in our hearts and lives. Jesus promised in John 14 that He will take prepared believers to their eternal home when their life on earth is through. But when we receive Him, the Lord comes to us in our earthly existence and makes His home with us here. Jesus said in Revelation 3:20 that He knocks gently at the door of every person’s heart and calls to us because He would love to come in and experience intimate fellowship with us. Even though He could bang the door down and force His way in, Almighty God has ordained that it must be opened from the inside.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Please see the attached “Scripture Sheet” which includes all the Bible references used in today’s message.
2. When a Scripture, message or Bible study brings to mind a song of the church—burst forth into song!
3. Have you invited Jesus to take over your entire being?
4. Do you recognize Jesus for Who He truly is?
5. Is Jesus truly Lord of every area of your life?
6. Marvel at the truth that Christ is *in* you, and you are *in Christ*.
7. Have you opened the door of your heart to Christ and made your heart His home?

Scriptures Used in Today's Message

Acts 16:25-26, 30-31: *“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed... ³⁰ ... ‘What must I do to be saved?’ ³⁰ ... ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”* (NKJV)

Ephesians 3:17: *“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...”* (NKJV)

John 1:10-13: *“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* (NKJV)

John 1:1-3: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”* (NKJV)

John 1:14: *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (NKJV)

Genesis 1:1: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* (NKJV)

Colossians 2:6-7: *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”* (NKJV)

Philippians 2:5-11: *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* (NKJV)

1 John 3:24: *“Those who obey His commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: we know it by the Spirit He gave us.”* (NIV 1984)

1 John 4:13: *“We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”* (NIV 1984)

1 John 4:15-16: *“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in Him and He in God. ¹⁶ and so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”* (NIV 1984)

John 14:1-3: *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”* (NKJV)

John 14:6: *“... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”* (NKJV)

John 14:27: *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* (NKJV)

John 14:23: *“...‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’”* (NKJV)

Revelation 3:20: *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”* (NKJV)