

# Accepting Jesus Christ

**Some things in human life are so basically unimportant that we do not miss them if we do not have them.**

**When it comes to our relationship with our Creator God we are entering an area of life that is a matter of life and eternal death.**

**Romans 3:23** [New King James] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

**All human beings have sinned and failed to prepare for the gift of eternal life from God, [Romans 6:23].**

**The Greek word translated “glory” is “dōxa” referring to the very nature of the Triune God, His character, holiness, sovereignty, ultimate power and righteousness.**

**1 John 3:4** [New King James] *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”*

**Sin is the rebellion against the laws that the Creator God has given us for our benefit as human beings, to enjoy people and harmony among one another, in preparation for a place in His created family.**

**The eternal Creator God will not give eternal life to any human being who will not be in harmony with these laws of love, for they would only pollute the created family of God who will receive eternal life.**

**1 John 1:8-10** [New King James] *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

If we consider we are **not** a sinning person we have deceive ourselves, with eternal death being the end result, unless we begin on a pathway to repentance, [**2 Peter 3:9**].

**John 3:14** [New King James] *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,”*

This is referring to an incident when the Israelites spoke in rebellion against the Creator God who had just brought them out of slavery in Egypt.

**Numbers 21:4-8** [New King James] *“Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.’ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.’”*

They were saved from death that was the result of sin, depicted by a snake, serpent – Satan, [**Revelation 12:9**] who held the power of death, [**Hebrews 2:14-15**].

**2 Corinthians 5:21** [New King James] *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

**Jesus Christ on the cross became sin for us, and was “*lifted up*” for all to see as part of the crucifixion.**

**Only in belief in this substitute death of Jesus Christ instead of our own deserved death may we receive the gift of eternal life.**

**In many religious fellowships this belief in Jesus Christ is called “*accepting Christ*” and considered as all that is needed to receive eternal life, a one-off maybe emotional decision, and all the rest has been done for us by Jesus Christ.**

**You may be surprised but the expression “*accept Christ*” is not found in the Christian Bible. ‘*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*’ shows that the word “*accept*” is never used in God’s Word in the sense of our accepting God or Jesus Christ.**

I question the way that a large number of people who have been brought into some kind of religious experience by a fleeting formality of “*accepting Christ*.”

**Have they really been brought into a genuine saving relationship with Jesus Christ?**

Or are they still behaving like religious sinners instead of like born-again believers, empowered by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit as they follow His lead?

**Romans 8:14** [New King James] *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*

**The Holy Spirit works in us in two ways, first with us, then in us, [John 14:17].**

“*With*” us as He leads us into all truth, [John 16:13] then “*in*” us as He develops the “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit, the very character of the Triune God, in us, [Galatians 5:22-25].

**As I hope you are beginning to see that “*accepting Christ*” is an ongoing way of life, not a one-off emotional decision.**

**Accepting Jesus Christ involves a dramatic change in our lives.**

**1 Peter 1:17-19** [New King James] *“And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

**We accept that we are “*redeemed*,” that is purchased, from “*corruptible things*” which includes eternal death by the blood of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, [Acts 20:28].**

**What should be our response to the grace of our Creator God, His great act of mercy?**

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

**This refers to a sin or burnt offering in which all the sacrifice is burnt up on the altar, [Leviticus 6:30].**

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and “*human*” spirit, [Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11].

Christian life after “*accepting Christ*” is **not** a one-off event, **not** a one day a week, but a total life surrender to Jesus Christ as our Lord as well as our Saviour.

**Luke 14:25-27, 33** [New King James] *“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.’”* ... *“So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

The Greek word translated “*hate*” is “*misēō*” meaning to love less by comparison.

**All of our other relationships are conditioned, determined and coloured by our relationship with Jesus Christ.**

At no time can we compromise our life, all who are enemies of our Saviour Jesus Christ are our enemies, all who are friends of Jesus Christ, [**John 15:12-14**] are our friends.

**We accept Jesus Christ’s ways of doing things as our ways, His teachings as the guide in our life.**

**John 16:5-8** [New King James] *“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

Here we see the work of the Holy Spirit as He re-educates us, [**Romans 12:2**] after we have confessed our sinful state before the Triune God, reminding us that true righteousness comes only from faith in Jesus Christ, [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24**] and that we will all face the judgement seat of Jesus Christ, [**2 Corinthians 5:10-12**].

**A host of people have been betrayed into thinking that they are converted and are now “*in Christ*” when they have only joined a religious group.**

**Many of us need ask if we really have accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord.**

**Too often we accept the “*Saviour*” without realising that such a state is impossible without accepting Jesus Christ as our “*Lord*” and all that involves every day of our lives.**