

CT Church – New Believers Class

A Decision for Christ

Chapter 1

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You have just made a great decision! You may have attended a church service where you responded to a call to come to the altar and receive Christ, or you may have attended a home group or Bible study and met Christ there. Perhaps a family member, friend, acquaintance or even a stranger shared the Gospel with you and led you to receive Jesus as your personal Savior. However you came to this decision it was the right one! The decision to follow Christ is the greatest and most life-changing decision that you will ever make.

Born Again

You have a new life, you've been "born again" (John 3:3). You are a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). With God's help through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are expected to "live a life worthy" of God's salvation, reflecting your new relationship with God. Your new life should be different from your old life. As you walk with Christ, you will learn humility, love, patience and many other positive, Christ like attitudes, that will help you live a full and satisfying life for you and for God. As you learn these virtues while walking with other Christians you will continue to grow and gain confidence that you are a child of God.

What does it all mean?

- Where were you before this decision?
LOST & DEAD
 - **Jeremiah 50:6**
"My people have been lost sheep..."
 - **Romans 6:23**
"For the wages of sin is death"
- Where are you after this decision?
 - **Luke 19:9-10**
"...for the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."
- God loves you in spite of where you were or what you've done.
 - **Romans 5:8** –
"But God demonstrated his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

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Your Life of Sin

Your life of sin

Before accepting Jesus as Lord and accepting His forgiveness you were a sinner. You failed to do what God requires to be in a right relationship with Him. You failed to obey God's law.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." – Romans 3:23

*"All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our own sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts..."
– Ephesians 2:3*

Sin includes those things you do that are not acceptable to God, as well as your tendency to walk in disobedience to God.

As a sinner you cannot please God

Regardless of how hard you try or how "good" you think you are you cannot please God. Most people live without even considering what God may expect from us.

"As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not one." - Romans 3:10

You were dead in your sin

Because God is holy (*Leviticus 11:44*) He will not allow sin in His presence. So while you were in your sin you were separated from God but when you were forgiven by Christ you were allowed to enter into His presence. It was by the blood of Christ that your sins were forgiven.

- **Romans 5:9**

"...we have been justified by His blood...saved from God's wrath through Him."

In the past you lived in the ways of the world.

- **Ephesians 2:1-3**

"...you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of the world...we were by nature objects of wrath."

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What Must I Do to Be Saved?

What must I do to be saved?

It's as easy as the learning the ABC's.

- **ADMIT (you are a sinner)**
 - *Romans 3:10, 23*
- **BELIEVE (in Jesus)**
 - *John 14:6*
 - *John 3:16*
- **CONFESS (Jesus is Lord)**
 - *Romans 10:9*

It is important that you realize that there is nothing you can do that will earn you access to heaven and there is no amount of money you can spend or give that will buy you access to heaven. It is only by the grace of God that you may have eternal life with Jesus.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God – not by works, so that no man can boast.” – Ephesians 2:8-9

When you firmly believe that it is through Christ alone you have salvation (not by anything you have done), you have “saving faith”!

Because of your faith in Christ, you now have grace and are in God's favor! Now you can enter God's presence boldly (Hebrews 4:16), knowing that you have received mercy and forgiveness. God accepts you through the work of Christ.

We are a Christian Church dedicated to equipping and encouraging the saints of God through the name of Jesus Christ to strengthen and expand the Kingdom of God in an effort to fulfill the Great Commission;

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” – Matthew 28:19-20

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Now What?

Now, what is expected of me?

Live a Godly Life

*“...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling, you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – **Ephesians 4:1-3***

Love God and Love Others

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbor as yourself.” – **Matthew 22:37-38***

Need help?

Here are recommendations that will help you on this new journey:

- Read and study your Bible

“All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
– **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*“...listen closely to My words...for they are life to those who find them and health to a whole man’s body.” – **Proverbs 4:20-22***

- Pray

- Matthew 6:5-13
- Ephesians 6:18

- Fellowship with other believers

- Come to church as often as possible
- Participate in a “Life Group” (a home Bible study available here at Community Transformation Church.)

“...let us draw near to God...Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another...”
–**Hebrews 10:22-25**

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- Be patient
 - **Philippians 1:6**
“being confident in this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ.”

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are you. The Lord will work with you at a pace appropriate for you so that you will be made mature and complete. (James 1:2-4)