

# **How to become a Christian and remain one.**

Subject: Conversion  
 Objective: To explain the process of conversion and the results of being in Christ.  
 Main Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17

## **ATTENTION**

- I. There are many people here tonight who wish they can have a new lease on life.
- II. Some of us are not satisfied with our:
  1. Appearance
  2. Skin color
  3. Hair
  4. Gender
- III. I believe that there are people here who wish they can live their lives all over again.
  1. I'll prefer to be a girl
  2. I'll love to be born in the USA
  3. I won't marry that man
  4. I Won't have kids so young
  5. I'll give my life to Jesus early
- IV. Every man has only one life to live, and life is what you make it.
- V. The good news is that, even though we cannot live our lives over again we can change our direction.

## **NEED**

- I. Every person alive on this planet has the sin virus. (Psalm 51:5) "*From the day that my mother conceived me, my nature has inclined towards evil.*" (Clear Word Bible)
- II. Because of Adam, sin has company. If there is sin then death is the result. (Romans 5:14)
- III. But the good news is that you do not have to die in Adam, you can die in Christ.
- IV. Adam got us in but Christ can take us out. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

- V. If Christ must take you out, you must be born again.

## **SATISFACTION**

- A. Being born again means becoming a Christian, a follower of Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- B. When a man is born again he puts away:
1. Lying
  2. Cheating
  3. Alcoholic and cigarette consumption.
  4. Unseemly behavior.

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought  
Since Jesus came into my heart...  
I have ceased from my wanderings and going astray  
Since Jesus came into my heart  
And I am happy so happy...*

- C. Indeed anyone who is united with Jesus gets a fresh start. The old life is gone; a new life begins. HALLELUJAH!

- D. Becoming a Christian requires 3 simple steps:

1. **Repentance** - Sorrow for sin
  - Turning away from sin
  - A desire to do what is right

- E. Do you make your own decision to repent or is it God who produces in you the desires and action that please Him? (Philippians 2:13)
- i. The desire to come to crusade meetings and listen to the Holy Word of God is the work of the Holy Ghost
  - ii. And it is a privilege when the Holy Ghost is speaking to you.

2. **Confession** - It is a U-Turn
  - Asking God to forgive you. (Psalm 51:1)

- F. When you have repented and confessed, Jesus claims you. He changes your name and adds His holy name to yours. You are now a Christian, a follower of Christ.

- G. But you will make mistakes. Like a baby who's beginning to walk you will stumble and fall.

## **ILLUSTRATION:** What being a Christian means

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I am confessing that I stumble

And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I am not bragging of success.  
I am admitting I have failed  
And need God to clean up my mess.

When I say..."I am a Christian"  
I am not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible but  
God believes I'm worth it.

When I say..."I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of headaches  
So I call upon His name.

When I say..."I am a Christian"  
I am not holier than thou,  
I am just a simple sinner  
Who received God's grace somehow.

#### APPLICATION:

A Christian is always in need of the grace of God. To become a Christian you need the grace of God and to remain a Christian you need the grace of God.

H. Because a Christian constantly needs the grace of God, the third and final step is crucial.

3. **Conversion** - It is gaining the victory over the wiles of the devil.

- a) Conversion does not take place in a day, or a week or a month. It takes place in your lifetime as you grow to be more like Christ.
- b) You become a Christian by accepting Christ as your Lord and following all His truth.
- c) You remain a Christian by depending totally on Christ to keep you. (Jude 24)

#### VISUALIZATION

- I. The Bible has many stories of people who became Christians and amid the struggles remained faithful.
  - i. Paul - Persecutor became Apostle.
  - ii. Zacchaeus - Thief, who stopped stealing.
  - iii. Mary of Magdala - Love men but fell in love with Christ.

II. We all have a sinful nature but God wants to do something for us. (Ezekiel 36:26)

## **APPEAL**

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Jesus in my heart

A four year old girl was at the pediatrician's office for a check up. As the doctor looked into her ears with an otoscope, he asked, "Do you think I'll find bug bird in here?" The little girl did not say a word.

Next the doctor took a tongue depressor and looked down her throat. He asked, "Do you think I'll find the Cookie Monster down there?" Again the little girl did not respond.

Then the doctor put a stethoscope to her chest. As he listened to her heartbeat he asked, "Do you think I'll hear Barney in here?"

"Oh, no!" The little girl replied. "Jesus is in my heart. Barney's on my under pants."

### **APPLICATION:**

Tonight Jesus wants to come into your heart. If you want him to come into your heart, let us sing the song, "Come into my heart".

*Into my heart, into my heart*

*Come into my heart, Lord Jesus*

*Come in today, come in to stay*

*Come into my heart Lord Jesus*

- 1) Is accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord important to you?
- 2) Is it important enough that you accept Him tonight?
- 3) If it is so important, will you please come to the altar for prayer?