

# What It Means to Be A *Christian*



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Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you what He has for you to learn.

**Romans 3:23-25** tells us, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins.” (ESV)

Everyone has sinned. The first man and woman created by God, Adam and Eve, disobeyed the one commandment God gave to them: Do not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They ate the fruit. This disobedience was sin, and the consequence of sin is death, separation from God—hell—forever.

You and I have inherited Adam and Eve's sin nature. **James 2:10** tells us that if we break just one of God's commandments, we have broken them all, and **James 3:2** tells us that we all stumble in many ways.

**Romans 6:23** says, "For the wages [payment] of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

How is this possible? **Romans 5:8-11** tells us, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

We have been justified (made just as if we had never sinned) with the shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross. Jesus took on the wrath of God, so that we would not have to bear it.

We are saved (rescued) from God's wrath, His anger and indignation at our sin (disobedience). Andrew Murray writes about the wrath of God, “Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is the contradiction of His holiness.” (capitalization added)

In addition, we are reconciled to God (our relationship with God has been restored).

Our sins have been placed upon Jesus, and He paid the price for our sins. That is what it means in **Romans 3:25**: “whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins.”

“Propitiation” means that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. Jesus took our sin upon Himself and paid the price for our sins, death on the cross.

Jesus redeemed those who believe in Him. That means that He paid the price to free us from slavery to sin. That is redemption.

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit (born again), he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’”  
**John 3:5-6**

We’re already born as humans who sin, but our spirits are dead because of our sin. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we learn that Jesus took our sins upon Himself on the cross and paid the price that we owe. He redeemed or bought us. We are freed from that sin and are born again (our spirits have come to life).

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

We are no longer slaves, but we are new creatures in Christ.

**Romans 10:9-10** tells us that, “if you confess (acknowledge) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Paul tells us in **Romans 5:1-2** “Therefore, since we have been justified [just as if we’ve never sinned] by faith, we have peace with God [reconciliation] through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Grace is sometimes referred to as **God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense**. Grace is receiving good that we don’t deserve.

**Romans 8:1-2** tells us that “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

Since we have acknowledged to God that we have sinned [confession] and we have decided to turn from our sin [repented] and asked Jesus to rule in our lives [to be our Savior], we are free to live knowing that Jesus is our Lord, the Ruler in our lives.

Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more” (**John 8:11**).

Jesus knew the many sins of the woman, but He forgave her sins, because He knew that He would take her sins upon Himself on the cross. He would be the perfect sacrifice that took away our sins. He paid the price that we owed for our sins on the cross. He purchased us [redeemed us].

**James 3:2**, tells us that we “stumble in many ways.” Although we have been born again, we walk in a sin-filled world, and Christians sin against God. However, we have a promise that we will be forgiven.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **1John 1:9**

We are not on our own. We don't have to walk the Christian life alone.

*Jesus* will never leave us nor forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**).

In addition, we have the *body of Christ*, the church. The church is made up of the people who follow Jesus. Paul encourages the Ephesians to “be filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.” **Ephesians 5:18b-21**

Jesus also sent the *Holy Spirit* to help us (**John 16:7-8**). The Holy Spirit teaches us, convicts us of our sin, guides us in all truth, and glorifies Jesus (**John 16:13-14**).

We have *Jesus, our church family, and the Holy Spirit* to help us.

Nothing can separate us from God.

**Romans 8:38-39** promises us, “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What have you learned about God from these Scriptures?

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What have you learned about Jesus from these Scriptures?

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What have you learned about yourself from these Scriptures?

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How can you apply what you have learned to your life?

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What surprises or amazes you about these truths?

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Pray that the Holy Spirit will remind you of these great and precious promises of God. What is your prayer?  
Write it down.

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