

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

At the core of a Christian's faith is the belief that a man called Jesus, who lived approximately 2000 years ago in the small nation of Israel, proclaimed with His words and demonstrated in His actions that He had been sent by God to save the world from the destruction of sin and death.

The crucial parts of this belief are that:

### **Jesus is the Son of God**

While on earth Jesus lived the full experience of a man, but at the same time He is and always has been Divine. He is the only Son of God, and the Father sent Him from heaven to earth to save all of creation and make a way back to God possible for every person.

### **Jesus lived a perfect human life**

Every one of us can identify times we have been self-centred and our words and actions have caused pain to others and also to ourselves. But the ultimate problem with us humans is that we have all, at some point, rejected God. Jesus never did that. He lived a life of pure love towards others and obedience to God's perfect way of being human.

### **Jesus died on a cross to pay the debt for all humanity's sin**

Because we have all rebelled against God - our Creator - we all have to face the consequences of that. Sin always brings death. So because of our sin, we have death hanging over us - a physical death but also a spiritual death for eternity. If nothing is done to make our sin against God right again, we are left carrying the consequence.

Jesus didn't sin, so He did not have any consequence against Him. But when He died on the cross an exchange took place - He took upon Himself the death-consequence that we are due to experience and He died on our behalf. Humanity can now receive this free gift of salvation by putting faith in Jesus and accepting that we have been forgiven and our debt has been paid in full.

### **Jesus was resurrected from death to life**

As explained above, Jesus experienced death - complete separation from the source of life, which is God. But He didn't stay dead. After being buried in a tomb for 3 days, Jesus was resurrected - He fully came back to life by the power of God. He was seen by His friends, He ate meals with people, He walked around and He taught people more details about the kingdom of God in heaven. Because Jesus rose to life after dealing with the consequence of sin and death, we know that we will follow in

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His example and also experience a full resurrection that means we will live for eternity with God.

### **Jesus rose to heaven to be with the Father and to send a helper - the Holy Spirit**

After Jesus spent time with His followers in His resurrected form, He was seen by many witnesses to physically rise up to heaven so He could join His Father in ruling over all creation. But He promised to send His followers the Holy Spirit who would empower them and every person from then on that puts their trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord of their life. The Holy Spirit gives Christians the power needed to follow Jesus' example of obeying God and to begin the transformation from living in sin and death to living in truth and life.

### **Jesus will return to earth a final time as King**

The story isn't finished yet. At an unknown time, Jesus will return to earth and establish His rule as the King of all creation. He will defeat all that is evil and destroy its influence, and will rule fully and forever with God's justice and righteousness. Those who choose to reject God and continue living in rebellion against Him will perish. But all those who have believed Jesus for salvation and have been restored to relationship with God will live with Him in this perfected era of eternity - heaven.

This is the good news that Christians are instructed to share with the world around them. It is a message of life, forgiveness, salvation, freedom, hope, and eternity. An invitation to know Jesus, accept His forgiveness and to follow Him is available to all - no matter who they are or what they have done.

This invitation is yours too! If you want to accept this gift of salvation you can say the prayer below. We encourage you to share this decision with someone and begin meeting with other believers. We'd love to celebrate your decision with you too - you can email us at [office@jubilee.co](mailto:office@jubilee.co)

*Dear Lord*

*I admit I have sinned and done selfish and wrong things that hurt you, myself and others.*

*I believe that you died for me, in my place, and ask your forgiveness for the things I have done wrong. I believe you came alive again and in your life I can have new life.*

*I commit my life to you, making you Lord and number one in all my thoughts and decisions. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit. I now live my life for you.*

*Amen.*