



Forestburg Baptist Church

Living by Faith, Known by Love

iConnect: New Members' Class
Session One: Salvation

What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

1. Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “why?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of life?”
 - a. Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:
 - ...some look for happiness by acquiring possessions
 - ...some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure
 - ...some look for happiness by gaining prestige and power
 - b. Real happiness comes in knowing _____.

2. Why am I here?

- a. God made me to _____.

Jeremiah 31:3 “The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying, *‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have drawn you with lovingkindness.’*”

Ephesians 1:3-6 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*”

- b. We were created to _____ a personal relationship with God.

Genesis 1:27-28 “*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’*”

1 Timothy 6:17-19 “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on *God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy*. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”

- c. When we know and love God, and live in accordance with His purposes, we will receive tremendous blessings in our lives:

Clear Conscience
Romans 8:1

Life and Peace
Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness
Romans 8:26

Purpose
Romans 8:28

Confidence
Romans 8:31

Security
Romans 8:39

Power and Strength
Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment
Philippians 4:19

Freedom
John 8:32, 36

3. What is the problem?

- a. Each of us has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God.

“Look out for number one. Do your own thing.”

“If it feels good, do it, regardless of what God says about it.”

“It’s my life and I’ll do what I please!”

- b. The Bible call this _____.

Isaiah 53:6 “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way.”

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

- c. Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will. When our relationship to God is not right, it causes problems in every area of lives, marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc. When we do have problems, we often try many ways of coping before turning to God.

Proverbs 16:25 “There is a way which seems right to man, but its end is the way of death.”

- d. Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

“My mother was a Christian so...”

“It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”

“I’ll give up all my bad habits.”

“I’ll work real hard and earn it.”

“I’ll be religious and go to church.”

4. What's the solution?

- a. God the Father sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile us back to Himself.

John 14:6 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- b. God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

Romans 5:8 "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

1 John 3:1 "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God."

- c. God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

5. What does God want me to do?

- a. Be _____ for your sins.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 "I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."

- b. _____ and turn to God for forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- c. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again and is alive today.

Acts 4:12 "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

- d. _____ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus has already done for us.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

- e. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Lord of your life.

John 1:12-13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

Romans 10:13 "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

6. How can I know that I am a Christian?

- a. Ask yourself, "Who or what runs my life?"

Job / Business	Family
Hobbies	Sports
Friends	Problems
Alcohol / Drugs	Jesus

The person or thing that runs my life is _____.

- b. Ask yourself, "What is my heart attitude toward God?"

Unconcerned: You may know a great deal about Jesus and salvation, or very little. The important point is you do not really care.

Concerned: You are aware of your inner and spiritual needs and would like to find answers to them.

Conviction: Strong spiritual discomfort and guilt caused by the Holy Spirit showing you your sin and emptiness.

Repentance: Deep change of mind and heart, choose to forsake all sin and turn over complete control of your life over to God.

Saving Faith: Total commitment of yourself over to the Lord Jesus Christ.

My heart attitude toward God is _____.

c. Evidence that demonstrates that you are saved:

You were and continue to be _____ of any sin in your life.

You have obeyed God's commands to _____ and _____.

You have _____ in the blood of Christ shed on the cross.

You have _____ of your life over to Jesus Christ.

God has _____ His Holy Spirit who assures you that you belong to Him.

d. Indications of early spiritual growth and maturity.

A desire to _____ the Bible (1 Peter 2:2).

A desire to _____ Jesus Christ (John 14:15).

Distress over _____ (2 Timothy 2:19).

Concern for the _____ (2 Peter 3:9).

Do I have evidence of salvation and spiritual growth in my life?