

Becoming a Child of God

Are you a child of God?

Some people believe that everyone is God's child because He created them. But that's not what the Bible teaches. A person becomes God's child by believing (trusting) in Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior (John 1:10-13). This involves more than just knowing or believing some facts about Jesus.

Good News: God loves you.

Since God loves you more than you can imagine, He sent Jesus to earth as a tiny baby. Jesus grew into a Man who willingly died on the cross. He took the punishment each of us deserve for our sin. Until our sin is forgiven, the punishment is being separated from God.

You can become a child of God by trusting completely that Jesus died on the cross so that you can be forgiven of everything you ever did wrong.

After His death, Jesus was buried and on the third day, God raised Him from the dead. Then Jesus appeared to more than 500 people before He returned to Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

As the Apostle John wrote, Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world as a human. Many people rejected Jesus, but to all who believed Him and accepted Him, the Lord gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

Early in Jesus' ministry work on earth, a religious leader named Nicodemus came to Him, asking questions. Even though Nicodemus was a respected spiritual leader, Jesus told him that he must be *born again* to see the Kingdom of God (to enter God's Holy Presence in Heaven).

Jesus told Nicodemus, "For this is how God loved the (people of the) world: He gave His one and only Son (Jesus), so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Perish is the opposite of having eternal life with God. It means spiritual death and being separated from God because of unforgiven sin.

Each person must truly believe in Jesus as their own personal Savior to become a child of God and receive eternal life. God offers you eternal life, a wonderful, never-ending existence in His glorious presence. Eternal life with Him is yours if you humbly come to the Lord and trust completely in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

As the Perfect Son of God, Jesus never did or said or thought anything wrong. Therefore, He is the only One who could die for your sins.

Bad News: You need to be forgiven.

Becoming God's child includes admitting that you have sin in your life. Sin is anything that goes against God's way, breaks His law, and does not please Him. According to the Bible, every person has sinned against God (Romans 3:23).

Because God is holy and perfect (completely without sin and darkness), you cannot come into His presence until you ask Him to forgive your sin. You need to come to Him with a humble attitude, asking for His forgiveness.

More Good News: God made a way for you.

God's way for you to be forgiven requires you to have faith and trust Jesus as your Savior. This faith includes believing that He is the One who saves you from being separated from God Almighty.

Faith involves God changing your heart so you believe and trust that Jesus died for you. Faith is necessary because you didn't see Jesus die or see Him after God raised Him. Faith is believing and trusting without seeing.

The Lord invites you to surrender to Him in faith, asking Him to forgive your sins. You can talk with God by saying a simple prayer using words like these:

Dear God, I know I have sinned and done wrong things against You. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sins. I believe that He died so I can be forgiven, He was buried and then You raised Him to new life. I believe He is alive today, ruling in Heaven in Your presence. I want to be Your child. Please forgive me and help me to live Your way. Thank You, God, for forgiving me and making me Your child forever. Amen.

If you prayed, truly believing in your heart, accepting Jesus as your Savior, write your name and today's date here:

NAME _____

DATE _____

Now what?

When you trust Jesus as your Savior, it's important to tell someone else that you are a new child of God. By doing this, you acknowledge the most important decision you will ever make.

Who will you tell about your decision to trust Jesus? _____

God's Promises

John 1:12

v. 12 To all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.

Write a copy of John 1:12. Then write what God promises to do, if you believe and accept Jesus as your Savior. Remember that God always keeps His promises. When you become God's child, you are in His forever family.

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul wrote that after a person becomes God's child, nothing can ever separate you from His love (Romans 8:38-39).

God also promises to never leave you or abandon you (Hebrews 13:5b). He will help you any time you ask, no matter what is happening in your life (Hebrews 13:6a).

You can always pray to your loving, heavenly Father, asking Him to guide you and help you with every situation of life.

Cry out to the Father anytime you need help (Psalm 107:1-32). God knows exactly what is best for you. He's willing to guide you and help you live His way. His love for you never changes.