

The ABC's
to become
a follower of Christ

These are the first three steps for a person to take when deciding to become a follower of Christ. We will call them the ABC's because they are just the beginning of the journey. A person can spend the rest of his life and never comprehend and master all that it means to be a Christian. This is intended to help you get started.

(The Bible references are listed at the end of each section for further study.)



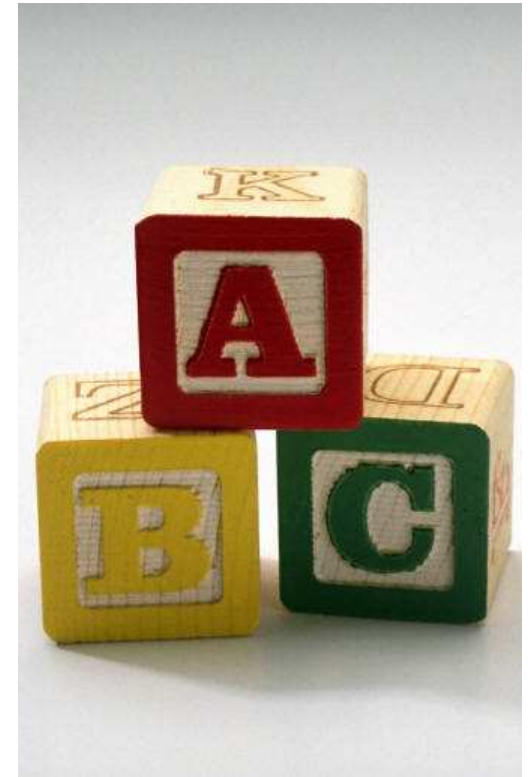
ABC'S

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Admit

We must admit that we have failed, that we have sinned and that we need a Savior. Many people live out their lives thinking that getting to Heaven is about being good enough and earning it. The problem is that the standard to earn life in Heaven is pretty high. It demands perfection of us.

If you are perfect, throw this away and read no further. You've got it made. But wait a minute, you are still reading. Why? Oh, you aren't perfect? Welcome to the club! None of us are.

So now you are thinking, "What if I am mostly good?" Your good deeds are on one side of the scale and they outweigh your bad deeds on the other side. Isn't that good enough?

There is a problem with that also. The Bible teaches that if we break one law, if we have one sin, then we are guilty of all of the sins. Consider these words from the Bible.

"Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." So there are only two classifications up to this point, the Perfect and the Sinners, Jesus Christ and the rest of us.

The good news is that God made a new classification, the Forgiven. When we admit that we have sinned and we confess them, God has promised to forgive them through Jesus' death on the cross. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

Romans 3:23, James 2:10, 1 John 1:9



Believe

We need to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, sent to earth to sacrifice His life for us so that we can go to Heaven. The power in this belief is that God raised Jesus from the dead after his execution on the cross. Now He is in Heaven with God and is the Lord of all things.

You may be asking, "Isn't Jesus one of many ways, or Christianity one of many religions, that connect us with God? Don't all roads lead to God and Heaven?" According to the Bible, No!

The Bible teaches that Christianity is exclusive, the only way to God. If you want to create your own belief system that unites all religions together, you will have to exclude the Bible and Jesus Christ from your faith.

In the Bible we read, *"There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

If you are ready to believe that Jesus is God's son, don't stop at this point. Your journey is just beginning. Belief is not enough. Jesus said, *"Not everyone that calls me Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of Heaven."* In fact the Bible teaches that the demons believe and their faith alone will not save them. We prove what we believe by the way we live. And that leads us to "C."

John 3:16, Romans 10:9, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5, Matthew 7:21, James 2:19



Confess

Are you a follower of Christ? The word in the Bible for follower is "*disciple*." It is a person that is disciplined in the teachings of the one who is followed. As stated earlier, you will spend the rest of your life trying to master living a Christian life. Jesus left us with an act of initiation upon deciding to become a follower, or disciple of His, the act of baptism.

Jesus himself was baptized, immersed by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Not because He needed to do this to save Himself, but as an example for us to fulfill everything God wanted Him to do.

His last words to His followers in the book of Matthew before ascending to Heaven was a command, *"go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* In the book of Mark, Jesus said, *"He that believes and is baptized will be saved."*

When the first Church started in Jerusalem, 3,000 people decided to become followers of Jesus and were baptized. The teaching on that day was that this message was for everyone that the Lord will call to be saved.

Just being dipped in water alone saves no one. It will not earn our way to Heaven like trying to be perfect enough. Baptism is what Jesus has asked us to do in response to His forgiveness. It identifies us with Christ and His Church. He paid for our sins. We accept Jesus as our Savior and begin the Christian journey as we **Admit** that we have sinned, **Believe** that Jesus Christ is the only way to God, and **Commit** to being a follower of His.

Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38-41, Acts 22:16