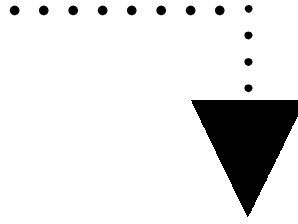


The GAME of LIFE



Play

401

How To Tell

WELCOME TO THE GAME OF LIFE SERIES

"PLAY"

We're glad you've chosen to continue to find out more about **Abundant Life Christian Fellowship**. This book is a basic introduction to knowing how to share your faith and be on mission with the Lord.

Our Vision Statement is, "**We Are Here To Set God's People Free!**"

At Abundant Life, we want each of our members to be free to positively impact their world by bringing their family and friends to a saving knowledge of God.

As you have found in the other Game of Life Series courses, many times Jesus would take simple illustrations from His day and use them as spiritual pictures so others could understand great truths of God. So, we are continuing to use the game of hockey to quickly represent what we are about.

Hockey is a Canadian sport that is very popular. Almost everyone in Canada is aware that the object of the game is to put the puck in the opponent's net. This game works well to express to Canadians what they need to do to be a people set free to live to the glory of God. Putting the puck in the net is like the church bringing someone to a saving knowledge of God. A goal is when a person becomes a true lover of Jesus.

The Lord God is the Owner of the Team. He is the One that drafts or enlists players onto His team. He will take those players and begin to train them to be the best that they can be. He has them show up for game practices and teaches them what their position is on the Team. He does all this so that His players can play a winning game together.

This book is how you can be a part of putting the puck in the net or bringing people to Christ. You will learn the basics of putting your faith to practical use in the real lives of people.

This is an exciting class,... get ready to be the player who makes the **PLAY OF THE DAY!!**

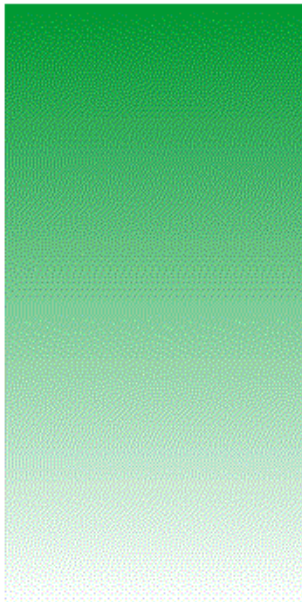
Our Core Values

The true foundation of any organization is its value system. Values are what one believes deep within. These truths drive a church and create the dynamic for a healthy or unhealthy congregation. Our church **MUST** live by God-centred values.

Abundant Life has agreed to live by God's values, values that unite us in a common vision. We desire health at the core of who we are.

These four values are the most important to us.

We remember them as the **TREE of Life!**



T—Truth Will Set Us Free.

We believe Truth brings freedom. Truth is a Person — His name is Jesus. For mankind to truly be set free they must come to Truth. We present this Truth in various ways such as preaching and teaching. The revelation of Christ is found in His Word. Scripture is practical for instruction in everyday life.

R—Relationships Are The Key

We believe the two greatest relationships are with God and people. We must have deep relationships with both. We connect with God with passion and honesty. We connect with others by being real and open. Christ-like attitudes towards others are extremely important.

E—Evangelism Is The Priority

We believe mankind is in great danger if they do not come to know Jesus Christ in an intimate way. Man is in spiritual darkness and lost without Christ. It is the church's responsibility to warn and encourage man to accept the truth of their condition, repent and live for God. Churches are God's means to reach the lost.

E—Empowerment Of The People

We believe every person who comes to God is given a spiritual gift so they may serve Him in love. Leaders equip followers in the ways of the Lord to do good works. Every believer should be having and doing a ministry of service to God. Spiritual leadership is critical to the church's health.

These values shape our thinking and actions. We desire to live them out at the core of who we are as a congregation.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,"

Romans 1:16

- Paul

KEY TRUTHS:

1. The church is a **TEAM**.
2. God wants you to be **a part** of His Team.
3. A Christian without a church is like a **hockey player** without a team. *It would not matter that you were the greatest player in hockey, if you did not belong and play with a team, you would lose very quickly against the other team.*

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

...To show the importance of knowing how to share your faith and go on mission with God to impact your family and friends with the gospel.

WHAT MAKES ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS GREAT PLAYERS?

THREE TRUTHS THAT FOCUS US TO MAKE THE PLAY:

Understanding how to be Witnessing to Others

Understanding how to be Involved in Missions

Understanding how to take New Players to Maturity

And now,...
...Let's Play
the
GAME OF LIFE!

UNDERSTANDING WITNESSING TO OTHERS

We are gathering to sharpen our perspective on our mission in life to truly serve as representatives of Christ and messenger of the Good News

John 4:34-38

34 *Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.*

35 *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*

36 *"And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.*

37 *"For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.'*

38 *"I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."*

"The evangelistic harvest is always urgent. The destiny of men and of nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. We are not responsible for the past generation, and we cannot bear the full responsibility for the next one; but we do have our generation. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our opportunities." (Billy Graham)

Over 30 million people in Canada do not know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. They are lost. About 2 billion people in the world have little or no access to the gospel. There are still over 2,000 unreached people groups in the world.

We are Winning...!

In 1960 evangelical Christians were 3% of the world's population.

In 1995 they comprised 10% of the world's population.

Example: In 2000...

In Brazil - the church is growing 17-20,000 new believers a week!

In China - the church is growing 20-30,000 new believers a day!

The availability of the Bible in other languages has increased dramatically.

1800 - 67 languages

1900 - 537 languages

2000- **2,800** languages

The "**Jesus Film**" has been seen by over 2 billion people and over 100 million have prayed to receive Christ.

Describe the people around us everyday who do not have a personal relationship with God...

1. What do we have in common with these people?

2. What don't we have in common with these people?

Why Go On Mission:

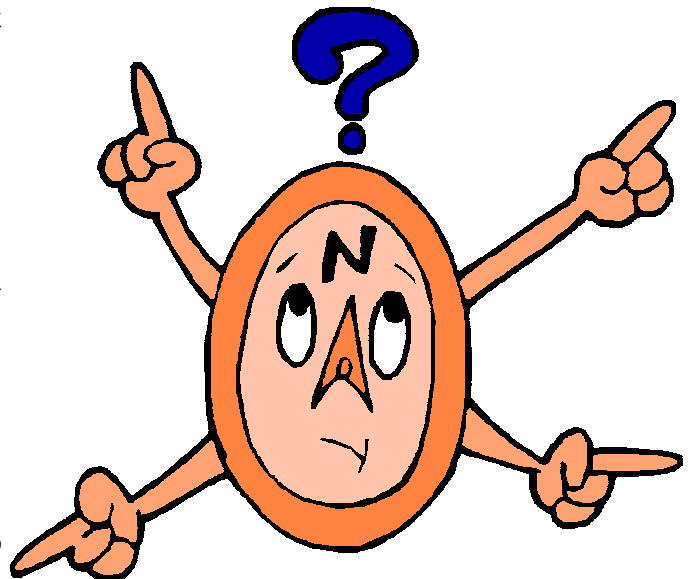
1. Because people are lost without Christ.

2. Because Hell is real.

3. Because people are condemned without Christ.

4. Because Jesus is the only way.

5. Because God wants everyone to be saved.



6. Because Christ commanded us to share the Good News.

Characteristics We Need To Consider:

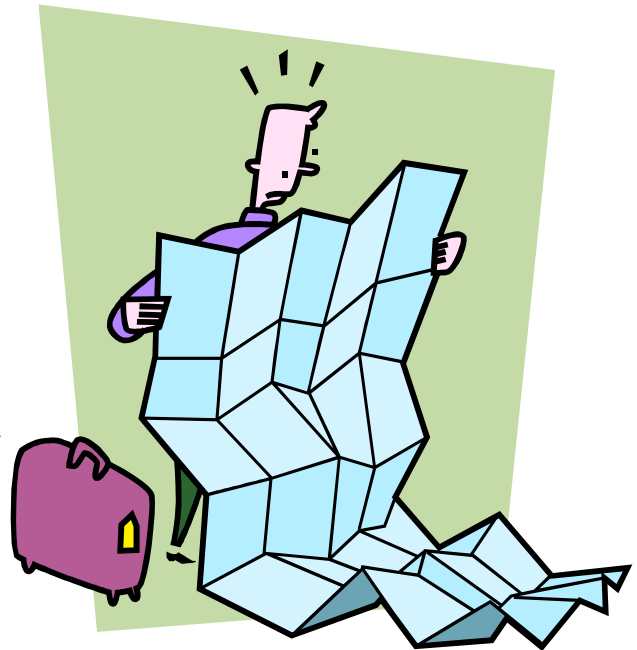
1. The people within our reach are essentially ignorant of the gospel.
2. The people within our reach are seeking life apart from God, which is impossible.

3. The people within our reach wrestle with spiritual questions but don't know where to get answers.

4. The people within our reach have a preconceived view of the church.

*We are basically irrelevant until proven otherwise.

5. The people within our reach suffer with various levels of discouragement.



6. The people within our reach struggle with relationships.
7. The people within our reach view God as impersonal to their problems.
8. The people within our reach are confused as where to get real help with their questions about God.
9. The people within our reach need loving help in finding answers.
10. The people within our reach are completely lost and are separated from God. Jesus is the only answer for the cure of Sin.

What Kind Of People Reach Secular People?

Those Who reach Secular People...

1. Know the times in which they live.
2. Maintain a posture of love and concern.
*Secular people appreciate friendship but abhor piousness.
3. Have placed their complete life and will in God's hands.
4. Strive for integrity between their private life and their public life.
"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel..." Phil 1:27
5. Seek to establish clear relationship lines with people in their world.
6. Never put people off! They do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.
7. Realize the vital importance of prayer.
* There is no new birth without the Holy Spirit.
* You cannot force a relationship.
8. Proceed with extreme patience.
9. Acknowledge the need for questions about God with seeking people.
"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." 1 Pet 3:15

Our ultimate example on how to touch people is found in Jesus

"The greatest act of love is to notice someone." Richard Foster

Jesus modeled for us the winsome ingredient needed if we are ever going to reach people. We **must** love them.

This vital ingredient is practiced by...

- * Spending time with them.
- * Meeting them on their turf.
- * Leaving your own comfort zones.
- * Showing people "biblical" acceptance.
 - Acceptance is distinct from agreement.
 - Acceptance is different than tolerance.
 - Acceptance is acknowledging the facts that...
 - People are made in the image of God.
 - People are prisoners of the enemy.
 - People are ripe for the Kingdom.

The New Testament also reveals the fact that there exists different strategies for reaching people.

The purpose of our class is primarily that of helping you discover how to better impact your world for Christ. But we need to stop and consider the wider role of the local church body in reaching people.

A church which is effective in Reaching People will take hold of certain beliefs and practices.

Beliefs and Practices:

The church that is effective in reaching secular people...

Knows that...

1. People are lost apart from knowing Christ as their personally Lord and Savior.
2. Lost people matter to God.
3. The church is commanded to go out and reach the lost.
The church is the only organization in the world which exists for the sake of its non-members. Richard Halverson
4. High priority is important.
5. Loving and showing love to secular people is vital.
6. Know what is negotiable and what is the non-negotiables.
7. We must research our area and understand the people in our community.

8. We must clearly define our vision and strategy for the future.
9. We must develop and implement a plan for reaching the unchurched people.
10. We must equip, train and empower the people force within our local church.
11. We must organize the church to be prepared to accept the lost when they come to the church get involved in the lives of the people.
12. We must challenge people to go on mission to reach their area of influence.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR OUTREACH AND TAKE HOLD OF GOD'S PLAN:

Realize your area of influence. Everyone has their contacts. Everyone has a mission field.

How Can I Prepare My Story?

We want to provide you with some very practical helps in preparing and sharpening your own story.

THE VALUE OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. It is unique! There is no others like it.
2. It is personal and easy to understand.
3. You are the authority on it. It is difficult to argue with.
4. People love to hear personal stories and they remember them.
5. People can relate to it.
6. It is effective in speaking to the heart and head of a person.

SOME THINGS TO AVOID LIKE "THE PLAGUE"

1. Making statements which reflect poorly on a church, other organizations or people.
2. Mentioning sins of other people.
3. Shouting at people. Use your natural speaking voice. This is a testimony, not a sermon.
4. Using church terms.
5. Speaking in church words or using words that are not clearly understood by non-Christians. Terms like "salvation", "saved", "born-again", and "conversion" are biblical terms which need to be explained if used.
6. Using poor eye contact or exhibiting nervous habits. (especially with your hands).
7. Being long-winded and using unnecessary words. Work on a testimony length of 2 minutes.

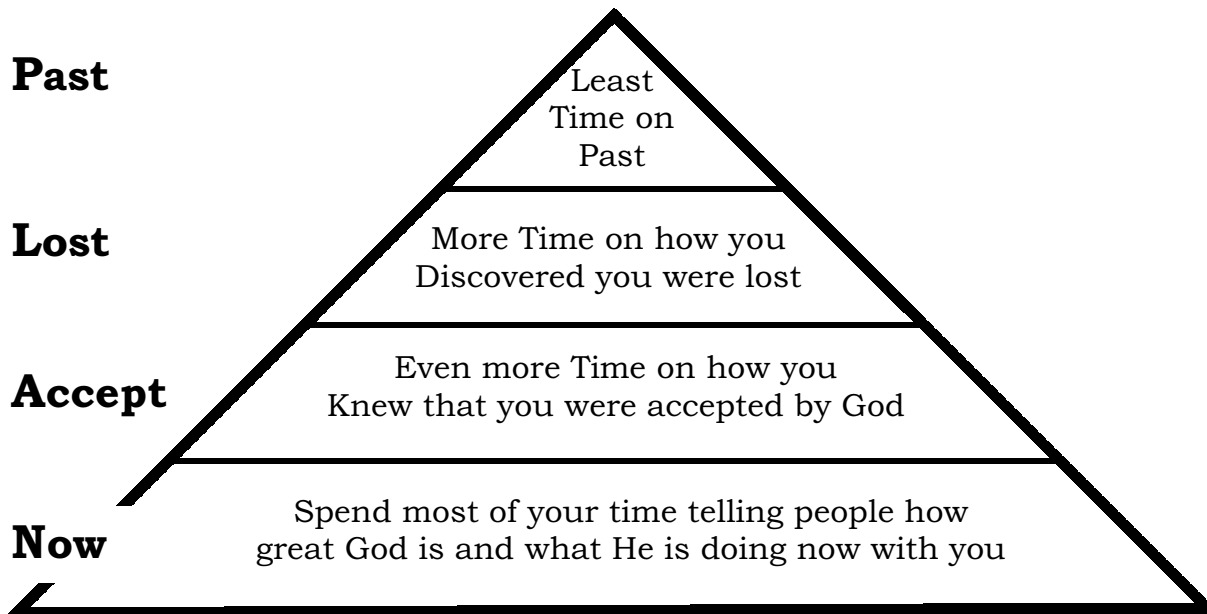
YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. P - Past - | My life before Jesus |
| 2. L - Lost - | How I realized I needed Jesus |
| 3. A - Accepted - | How I received Jesus |
| 4. N - Now - | How Jesus makes my life meaningful now. |

A testimony is short. It is about one minute to one and a half minutes or about 275 words. Use short, simple sentences. Be careful to use unchurched language, like, "I walked the isle for Jesus", "I was saved", or "I was lost".

Write your testimony on the next page.

The Testimony Pyramid



YOUR PERSONAL PLAN TESTIMONY

P - Past - My Life Before Jesus

What common circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?
What were your attitudes that an unbeliever would identify with?
What was most important to you?
What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life?
(sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, kids, sex, making money, drugs/alcohol, having fun, entertainment, popularity, hobbies, etc)

L - Lost - How I Realized I Needed Jesus

What significant steps led up to your conversion?
What needs, hurts, or problems made you dissatisfied with the way you were living without God?
How did God get your attention? What motivated you?

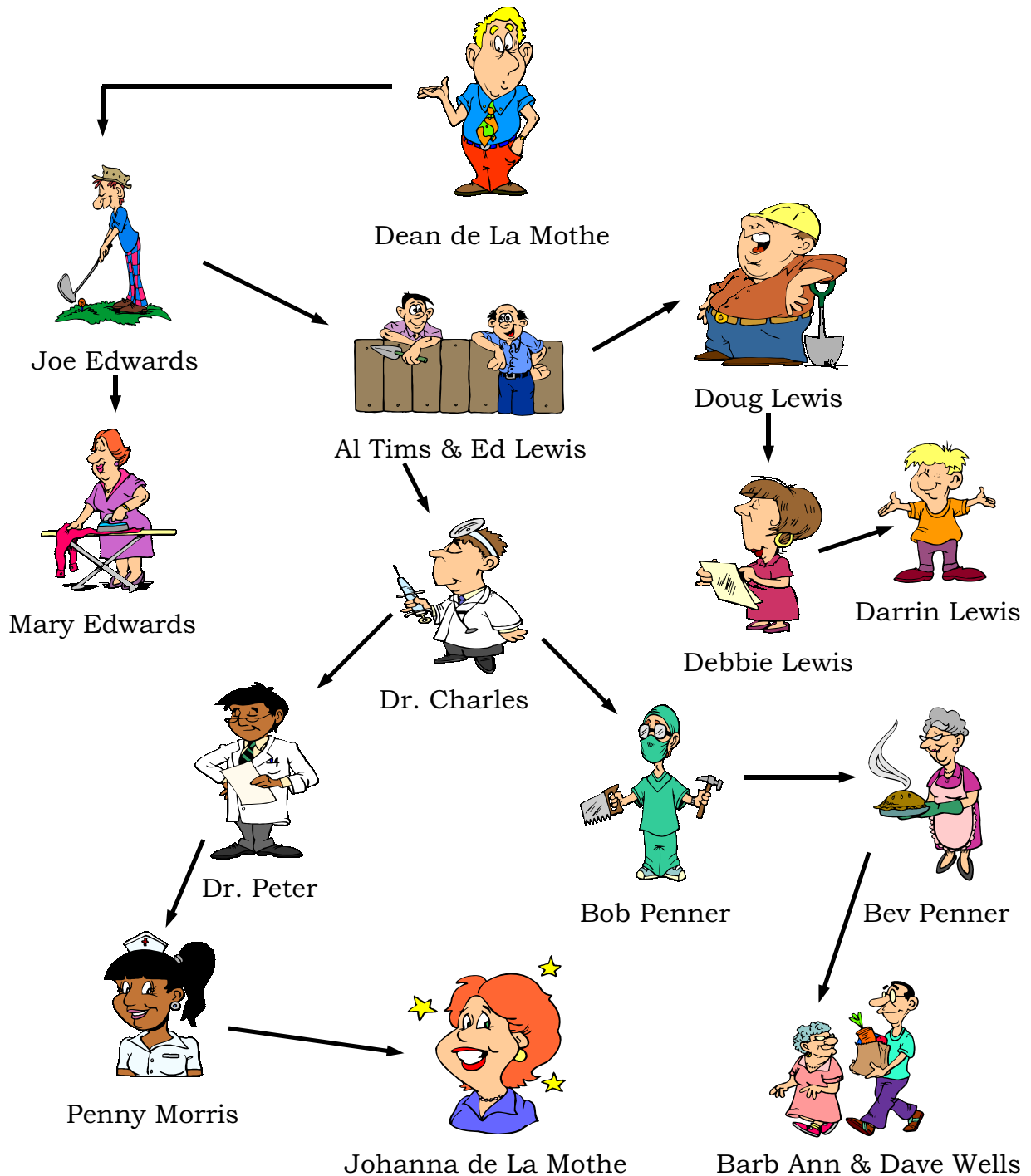
A - Accept - How I Received Jesus

What specifically did you do? Where did it happen?
What did you say in your prayer? Be specific.

N - Now - How Jesus Makes My Life Meaningful Now.

What benefits have you experienced or felt?
What problems have been resolved?
How has Jesus helped you change for the better?
How has it helped your relationships?
Give a current example.

The Potential of Relational Evangelism

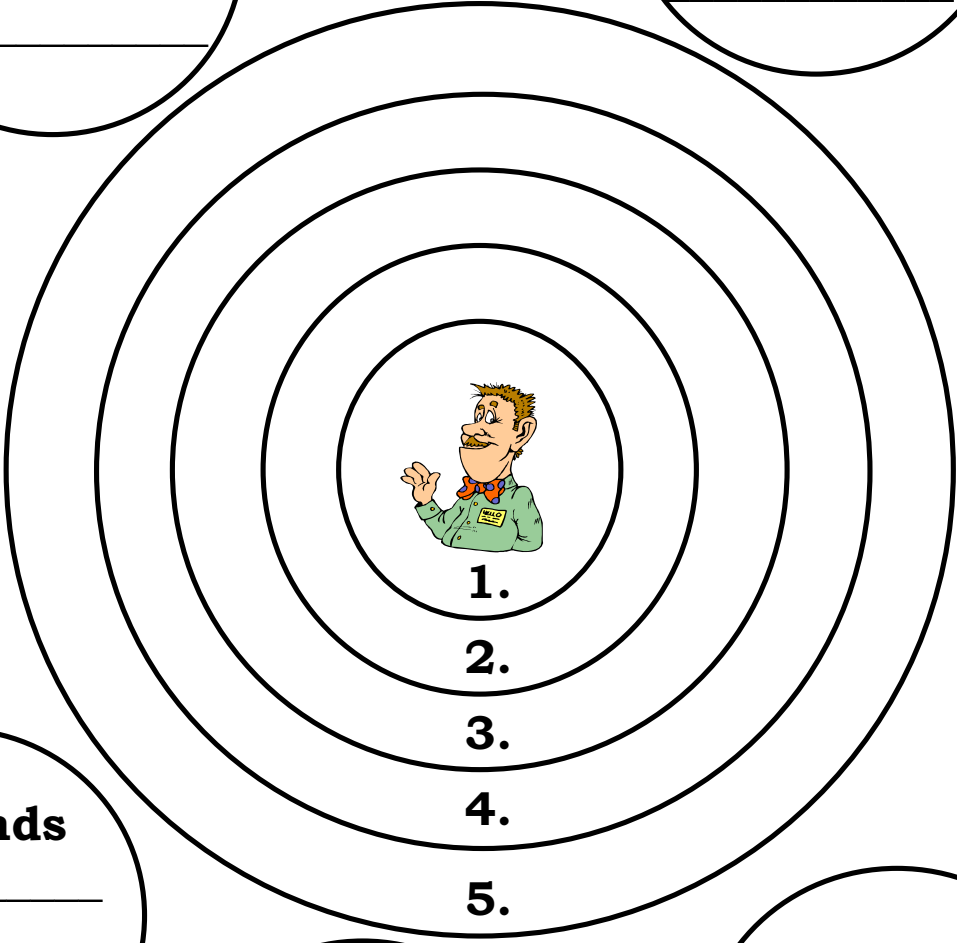


My Circle of Influence

God holds me most responsible for people I already have relationships with.

1. Family

2. Relatives



Where Do I Start?

Those closest to me!

*Mark 5:19
"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."*

3. Friends

4. Work

5. Acquaintances

WITNESSING IN THE HOME

FAMILY

Transition: Do you have any special hobbies?

INTERESTS

Transition: When you attend church, where do you attend?

RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND

Transition: Let me ask you a question.

EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS

1. Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you will go to heaven when you die?

Transition: 1 John 5:13

Now I know for certain I have eternal life and when I die I will go to heaven. Let me ask you another question.

2. Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" What do you think you would say?

Transition: John 3:16

God's purpose is that we have eternal life.

Romans 1:16-17

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-10

Romans 12:1-2

HOW TO MEET A STRANGER

Think of a name plate...

Think of a house with a porch...

Think of a brick chimney...

Think of a desk...

Think of two ice cream pails...

Think of a flag with challenge...

Think of a family on the flag pole...

Think of a skier on the family...

SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH CLARITY

FAMILY

Transition: Do you have any special hobbies?

INTERESTS

Transition: When you attend church, where do you attend?

RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND

Transition: Let me ask you a question.

EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS

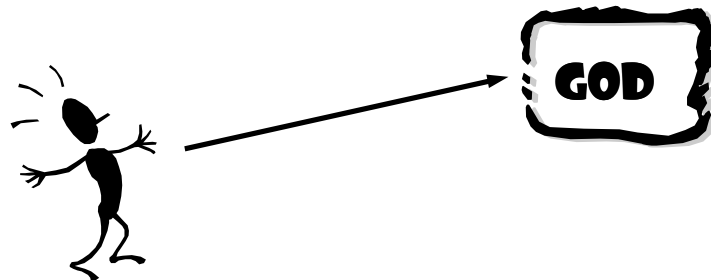
1. Have you come to a place in your life you know you will go to heaven when you die?

YES

NO

MAYBE

2. Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, **“Why should I let you into My heaven?”** What do you think you would say?

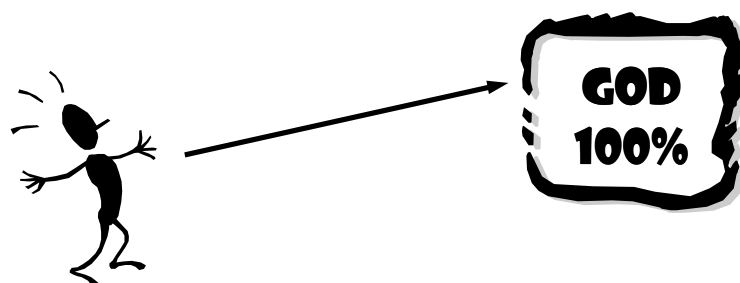


My Answer: _____.

The Bible says the Lord wants everyone to be saved. To be in His presence forever.

1 Tim 2:3-4 *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

God want us to know Him but we must first realize He is an absolute, holy God. He is absolutely righteous in character, in love, and in justice. The Bible says *The LORD is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works*” (Psalm 145:17). So, on a scale of percentages, from 0% to 100%, How righteous do you think the Lord God is? 100%



If you said He is 100% righteous, you are right. The Bible says, *“God is majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders”* (Exodus 15:11).

Now let me ask you, on a scale of percentages from 0% to 100%...

How righteous do you feel you are, right now? _____

Circle your answer:

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
(As wicked as Satan) (As righteous as God)

Let me give you a quick test on your righteous:

If a test were given to you to see if you were 100% righteous, to pass, you would need to have ***always, without ever failing do certain things...***

To be 100% righteous you would need to have always...

i) ...loved the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, from childhood until now? Never once saying or do something out of line with loving your Creator. How have you done?

YES

NO

My Score

100%

75%

50%

25%

0%

To be 75% righteous you would need to have always...

ii) ...loved your neighbor as yourself? Never once saying or doing anything wrong to anyone you have associated with, including brothers, sisters, parents, and friends. How have you done?

YES NO

To be 50% righteous you would need to have always...

iii) ...kept your tongue from swearing, gossiping or lying? Never once saying one word out of place. How have you done?

YES NO

To be 25% righteous you would need to have always...

iv) ...been faithful with your time, talents and treasures, never wasting them on any kind of foolishness? How have you done?

YES NO

Always...!

How did you score?

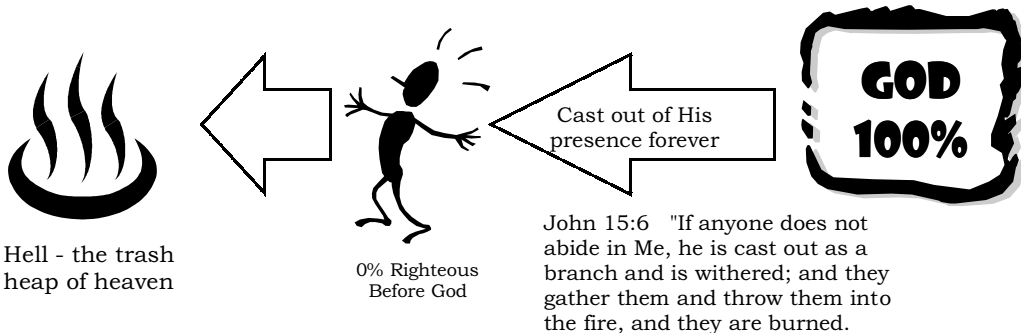


If you have marked 0% in righteousness before God, you are correct! This is why the Bible says, "**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**" (Romans 3:23).

If you own something of zero value to you, what would you do with it?



You would throw it away, wouldn't you. If you, by your own admittance, say that before God you have zero righteous, zero righteous value, what do you think will happen to you when you come into His presence?



Let me illustrate this reality to you.



Imagine you are a Judge. Your friend has committed a terrible crime, he murdered. He comes before you in your court room. The family of the murdered victim is also in the court room. This is your friend and you love him, do you think it would be right to just let your friend go? What do you think the hurt party would say? Would not they say, "He may be your friend and you may love him BUT you must give us justice."

Remember God is 100% in character, love and **JUSTICE**. Just because He loves you, He can not and will not let you go. You have committed unrighteousness. You have hurt other people. You have committed sinful acts and it would be unjust and against His righteous character to let you off. He must be just.

Now you ask, what is the punishment for my unrighteousness? The Bible says since you are not 100% righteous you receive the punishment for not living a perfect, sinless life. "*For the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23).

Can you see you are in trouble?



You may be thinking, if we are expected to be this righteous, who than can be saved? The Bible says, "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" All of the human race is in major trouble.

How can you escape the verdict of death when you enter God's court room? Can you see you need a Savior? Someone who will pay the penalty of your sin?

This is why Jesus came. The Bible says, "*And you know that Jesus was manifested to take away our sin, and in Him there is no sin*" (1 John 3:5). Jesus has no sin. This means He has no sin punishment against Him.

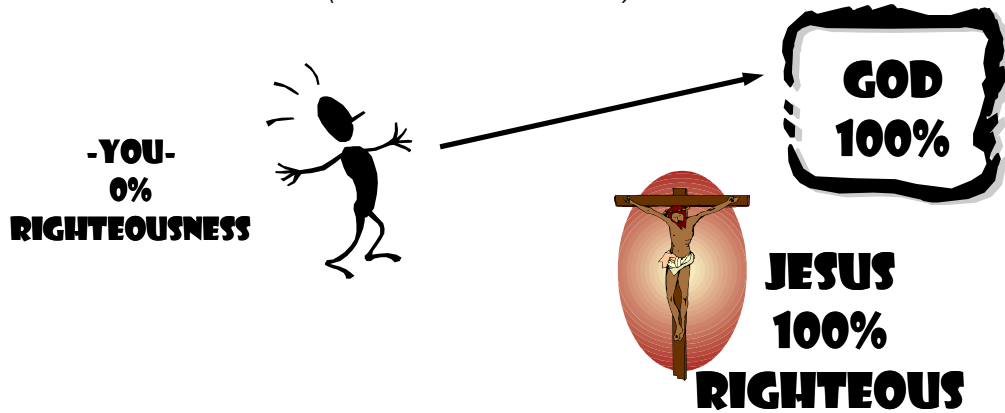
Jesus came to earth for a reason. He came that He might unite you to His Father. So you could live out your true purpose. The Bible says, "*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ...*" (2 Corinthians 5:18a). The word reconciled means "to make peace between two parties who were not at peace before". Jesus makes peace between us and God the Father.

How does He unite you with the Father?

He does it by making you righteous before God. He pays for your sin crime. The Bible teaches salvation is "*Not of works, lest anyone should boast*" (Ephesians 2:9).

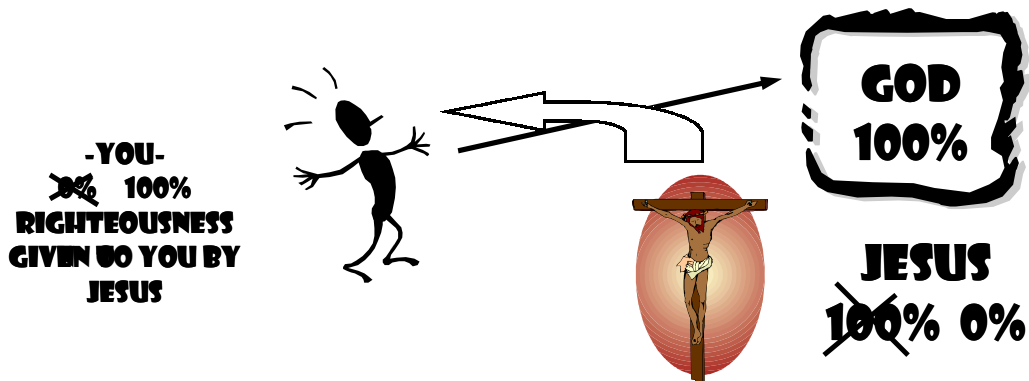
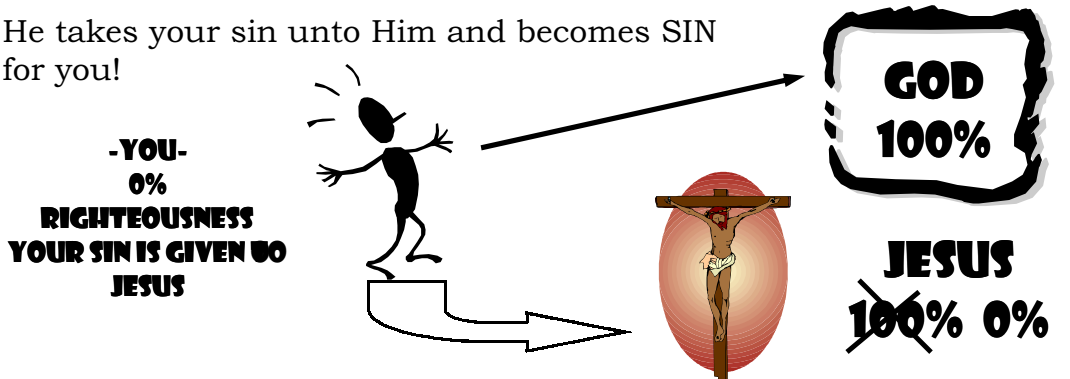
How does Jesus make you righteous before God?

***“For God (He) made Jesus (Him) who knew no sin to be sin for us,
that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”
(2 Corinthians 5:21).***

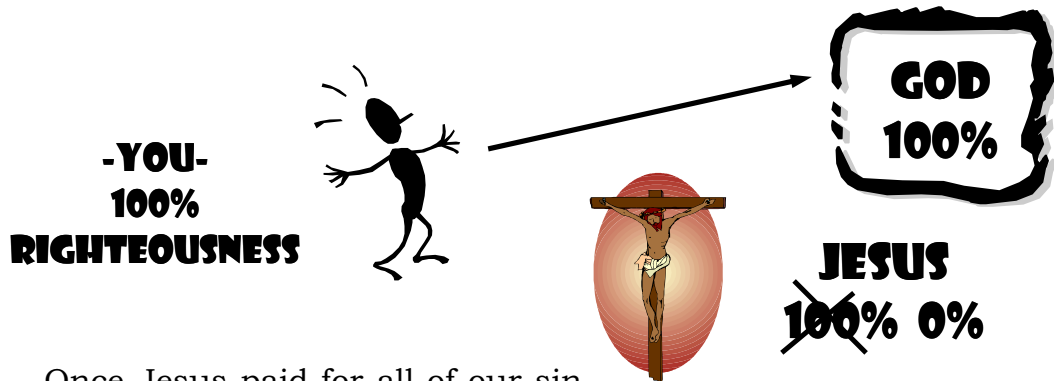


“For God made Jesus who knew no sin...”

He takes your sin unto Him and becomes SIN for you!



“...that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”



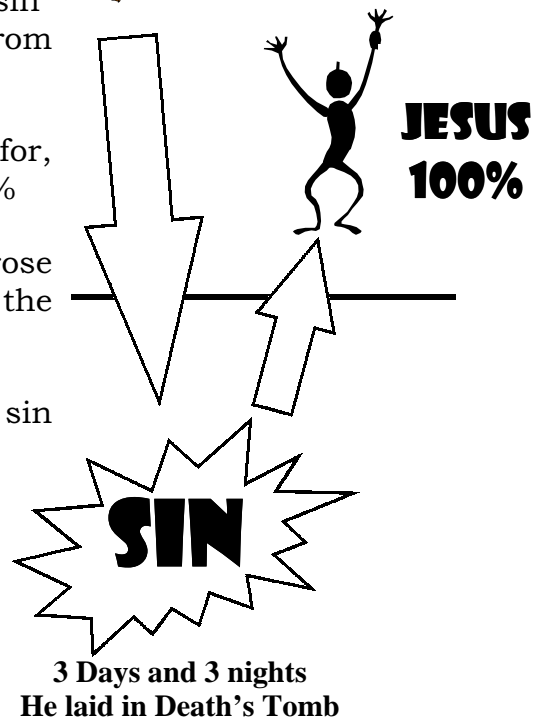
Once Jesus paid for all of our sin the Father resurrected Him, alive from the dead.

If all of our sin has been paid for, how righteous would Jesus be? 100%

After Jesus died for you, He rose out of the grave and went to be with the Father.

If He paid for Sin, how much sin would He have?

Can you see?
God is 100%,
He makes You 100%
...and Jesus is 100%!
And Sin is paid for!



WOW!

Can you see why it is essential you put all of your trust in Jesus alone to save you?

YES NO

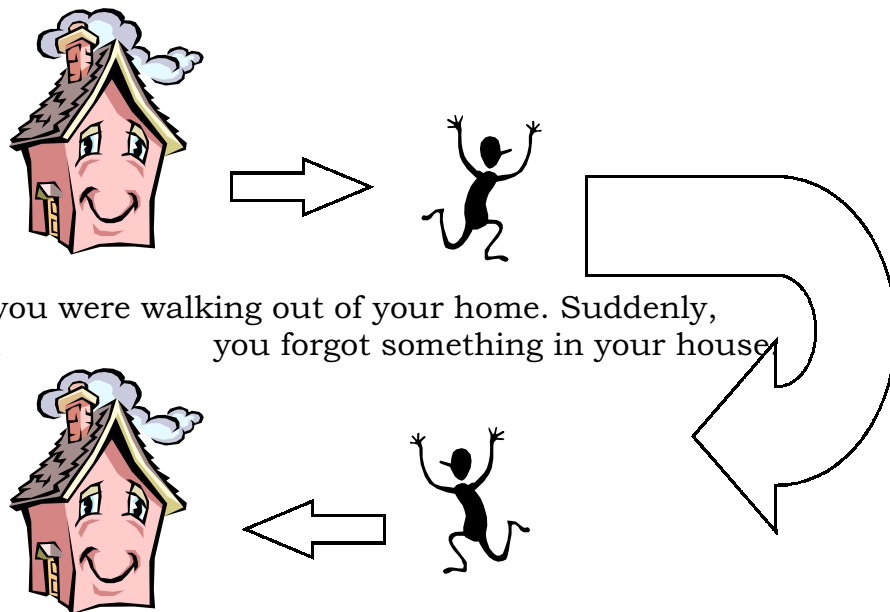
To receive Christ and His righteousness you must be willing to...

TURN FROM YOUR SIN

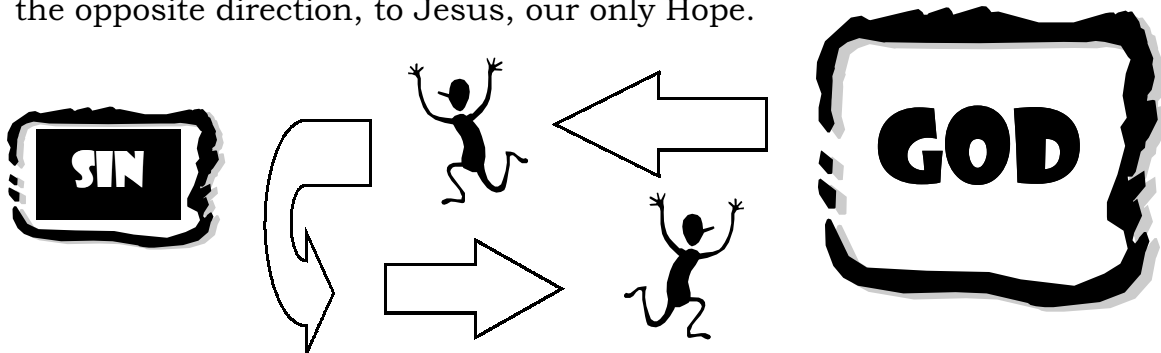
The Bible says, *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out”* (Acts 3:19).

To repent, you confess or admit you are a sinner, an unrighteous person and in need of a Savior. You see your life as sinful or independent of God. You’re willing to turn away from your sinful life-style and turn to God.

Let me illustrate what I mean by repentance.



You make a U-turn and head back into the house. You would then be heading in the opposite direction you had been going. When we repent, we are willing to turn from our sin, our independence and turn in the opposite direction, to Jesus, our only Hope.



**The Second thing you must be willing to do is...
TRUST IN JESUS AS LORD**

To trust in someone is not just knowing facts about them. You can't say you trust in Jesus if you have only accepted the facts about Him. The Bible says, "*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble!*" (James 2:19). This tells us that even the demons believe facts about God.

To trust or to have faith, is putting all of your confidence in Jesus and His righteousness to save you. This is why Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6).



You may believe with your mind a chair can hold you, but if you are to experience it, you must trust it enough to put your full weight upon it. The only way Jesus can make a difference in your life is for you to totally trust Him. A lot of people believe Jesus existed but it doesn't make any difference in their lives because they do not fully trust in Him with all of their being. They believe facts about Jesus, but have not put their trust or faith in Him.

As evidence of trusting Jesus as your Lord and Savior you will want to identify with Him. The New Testament way is to be willing to confess Jesus publicly, follow Him in baptism and become a part of a church fellowship.

Does what I have been discussing make sense to you?

YES NO

Is there any reason why you would not be willing to put your full trust in Jesus?

YES NO

Are you willing to turn from your sin and place your complete faith in Jesus, right now?

YES NO

If you are ready, let's bow before the Lord and ask Him to accept you, right now. You can repeat these words after me, if you really mean them...

*"Dear Lord,
I know I have sinned
and need You to save me.
I am 0% in righteousness before You.
I am sorry I hurt You.
I repent of my sin.
Thank you for dying on the cross for me.
I trust in Your death and resurrection alone
to save me.
I receive Your gift of 100% righteousness.
Thank You for giving Your life to pay my sin debt.
I commit my new life to You.
Thank You for hearing my prayer and
giving me eternal life."*

Amen

Do you understand what has happened to you?

You have been born again or we could say, born from above! God has redeemed you. He bought you back with His own Son's sacrificial death. You are no longer a sinner (someone independent from God), you are a saint (someone who is holy or separated to God)! ***You are a righteous being that sins (can still do independent acts in the flesh) not a sinner trying to be righteous.*** God's righteousness has been gifted to you because of your trust in Jesus as the only Way to know Him.



Welcome to the family of God. You have just made the most important decision of your life!

You are a part of the TEAM!

Your First Expression of Jesus' Absolute Lordship Over Your Life

BAPTISM

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a symbol of the death and burial of our Lord. The Lord Jesus commanded us to do to show His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

The early church would take new believers in the faith into the water and put them right under to show how Christ was buried for us.

Matt 28:18-20

18 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

20 *"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river."
Mark 1:9

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went out of the water." Matthew 3:16

These Scriptures are clear that Jesus was immersed and we believe this is the example for every believer to follow. First is belief in Christ, then baptism. It should be carried out in that order.

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(Example) *"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39*

3. The word "baptize" means "to immerse" or "dip under".

In the early 1600's the Bible called the King James came into existence. When the scholars came to the word "Baptizo" in Greek, they did not translate it - they transliterated it. They lifted in out of the Greek and coined a new word "Baptize". But the word still means to dip, plunge or immerse.

4. Because Christ Commands it.

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them My disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.' "
Matthew 28:18 - 20

5. It best symbolizes a death, burial and resurrection!

6. It demonstrates I really am a Believer.

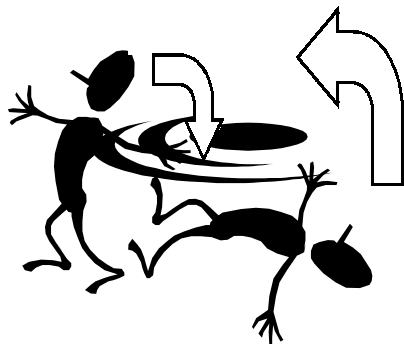
"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8
We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." 1 John 2:3

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has believed Christ.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized..." Acts 2:41
"Simon himself believed and was baptized..." Acts 8:13
"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12'

Believer's Baptism By Immersion Only



Baptism is a picture of a death, burial and resurrection



Sprinkling does not picture a death, burial and resurrection

Baptism says to the world you believe...

1. Jesus died for you, paid for your sin and arose again.
2. You died spiritual and arose again as a new creature in Christ.
3. You will never die. Your earth suit will some day die but you will go back to God who created you for Himself.

Remember: Baptism doesn't make you a believer - you already are if you have put your trust in Christ. Baptism does not "save" you, only by the grace of God you are saved. Your faith in this truth secures your salvation. Baptism is like a wedding ring -it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

What about infants and children being baptized?

At the **Abundant Life Christian Fellowship**, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

...AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

"Those who believed ...were baptized ...that day!" Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down to the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you decide to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. In the New Testament those who personally accepted Christ were baptized immediately to publicly confess Him. If you wait until you are "perfect in performance", you'll never feel "good enough"!

Learn to follow and listen to the Scripture and you will never go wrong. It is before God you will be some day be brought, serve Him and obey Him quickly.

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with their parents for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Meet with a member of the Baptism Ministry 10 minutes before you are to be baptized. If desired, we provide baptismal robes. Please, bring your own personal toiletries such as undergarments, towels and hair dryers.

Will I have to say anything?

Not if you do not want to. At the beginning of the service, the Pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait in the baptistery for your turn to be baptized. The Pastor will introduce you, briefly lower your body just under the water, and then you can leave the baptistery, dry off, and watch the others. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

Special needs?

Our Pastor can perform a private baptismal in special circumstances.

I've read this over and believe that I should be baptized.

I will call the church office today (250)492-0131

I will set up an appointment to talk with someone about my baptism.



UNDERSTANDING HOW TO BE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS

Each of us needs to feel the responsibility of the lostness of people around us. From the people beside you, who are the closest, to those on the other side of the world. We each must be responsible to our fellow man. Responsible to live a life before them that says God and His ways are important. Responsible to live a life that says their relationship to God is also important.

Our Church And Global Mission

When Jesus stated His final word as our greatest priority, He was clear about the breath of our reach.

Matthew 28: 18 - 20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

As a church of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention we are committed to building up our missionary force rather than allowing it to die.

Our firm resolve is to keep the _____ in the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention.

CSBC Missions - What's Special?

1. We
2. We believe
3. We are committed to

