

What Believing in Jesus Christ Is

1. Believing in Jesus Christ is entering into an eternal relationship with God through receiving Jesus Christ into your life, and therefore His forgiveness of your sins and His gift of eternal life for you. (John 1:12; 3:16; 10:27-30; 1John 5:11-13; Romans 8:38-39; 10:9-10)

- We have all sinned against God (Romans 3:10-18, 23).
- As sinners, we are faced with God's eternal judgment and condemnation (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; John 3:18, 36).
- Because God loves us, He gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer His judgment for us in our place. Thus, Jesus Christ died for us on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 1:21; 26:28; John 3:16). On the third day after His death, Christ rose from the dead victoriously over sin and death to give us eternal life (Luke 24:46-47). All you need to do is to (1) repent of your sins (confess that you have sinned against God and want to turn away from your sins), (2) believe in Jesus Christ for His death and resurrection, and (3) believe in Jesus Christ to be your only God and Savior. He will forgive all of your sins and give you eternal life. (John 1:12; 3:16, 36; Romans 10:9-10).
- Believing in Jesus Christ is believing in Him with genuine faith. Genuine faith is a simple child-like faith that is sincere, humble, and single-minded (Matthew 18:2-5; Mark 10:13-16). This is a lifetime commitment of following Christ as the one and only true God and Savior of your life. There is none other (Acts 4:12).

2. There is a change of ownership (1Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 14:8-9).

- When you believe in Jesus Christ, you put your life in the hands of God. Spiritually speaking, you no longer belong to yourself. The world no longer owns you. The devil no longer owns you. Sin no longer owns you. Death no longer owns you. It is Jesus Christ who owns you. You now belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to you.

There are profound implications from this new relationship with God through believing in Jesus Christ. Here are two examples.

1. The priorities of relationship are changed. God is our full-time God.

- *1st, Our relationship with God* – Jesus Christ is the Lord (Head) of our lives (Ephesians 1:22-23). Everything in our lives fall under our relationship with God. We are to love God with all that we are and do (Matthew 22:37-40). This is the new nature of our new life in Christ – a loving relationship with God.
- *2nd, Our relationship with family and church* – Jesus Christ is the Lord over all areas of our lives (Eph. 1:22-23) starting with our own families and our church family. Church is the assembly of believers in Christ. Family and church are equally important. A healthy church is made up of healthy Christian families. A healthy church supports the growth of healthy Christian families. "Health" means being spiritually, emotionally, and relationally healthy based on sound biblical doctrines.
- *3rd, Our relationship with community and work* – Jesus Christ is the Lord over all areas of our lives. We are Christians, disciples of Christ, wherever we are, e.g. at work or at the park, etc.
- *4th, Our relationship with self* – We are created in Christ as God's masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10). We must value ourselves, be responsible for ourselves, and live to serve God's purpose with our lives. Our relationship with God guides our ways of living.

2. Our "joy factors" are being changed day-by-day as we live by God's Word (the Bible) in God's grace with God's help.

- Gradually, the reasons for joy (thus, "joy factors") will be different from those prior to our believing in Christ. We are learning to hate sin and love what God loves. We are overjoyed to see our loved ones believe in Christ. We find peace and strength in praying to God. We feel blessed when we learn from the Bible. Christian books and songs inspire us. We enjoy talking with Christian friends about things from a biblical perspective. We find great significance in serving God by serving others. We are thankful to speak encouraging words to others as God gives us wisdom (cf. Ephesians 4:29, 31). All these and more reasons for joy weren't there before believing in Christ.



What Believing in Jesus Christ Is

