

LESSON 1: THE GOSPEL / ANSWERS

MARK THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F):

- Christianity is believing in a god. **F (a specific God)**
- Christianity is having a relationship with Jesus Christ. **T**
- Christianity is trusting in Jesus as your Savior. **T**
- Christianity is obeying the Lord's commandments and your parents. **F (although Christians will do that)**
- Christianity is just another religion that leads us to God. **F**
- Everyone is a Christian who is born to Christian parents. **F**

THE A-B-C-D'S OF BEING A CHRISTIAN¹

1. There is something to **ADMIT**.

1. Christians are people who admit that they are weaker, guiltier, and more **SINFUL** than they would have ever dared admit. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
2. Christians are people who admit that they are by nature and by choice not in a **RELATIONSHIP** with God—even though it is for such a relationship that we were created. (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:9-20, 23)
3. Christians are people who admit that in their hearts, their lives are **SELF-CENTERED** rather than **GOD-CENTERED**. Therefore, without the power of God, they are **UNABLE** to break this pattern.

2. There is something to **BELIEVE**.

1. Christians are people who believe that God **LOVES** us so much that He sent His only **SON** to earth to become a **MAN**, Jesus Christ.

¹ Adapted from *Evangelism Through the Local Church* (Nelson, 1992), by the Reverend Dr. Michael Green, a leader in the Church of England.

2. Christians are people who believe that Jesus died on the cross as our **SUBSTITUTE** and was **RAISED** from the dead in order to offer us **COMPLETE** forgiveness. (John 3:16-17, Acts 13:38, Romans 3:21-26, Titus 3:4-7)
3. Christians are people who believe that through **CHRIST**, we can be more **LOVED**, valued, and **ACCEPTED** by God than we could have ever imagined.
3. **There is something to CONSIDER.**
 1. Christians are people who are not naive, but who have **COUNTED** the **COST** of following Jesus.
 2. Christians are people who acknowledge Jesus' **LORDSHIP** in every area of life.
 3. Christians are people who welcome His work to change us from the **INSIDE**, and love to spend time with Him and with His followers in the life of the church. (Luke 14:25-35, Philippians 3:7-16)
4. **There is something to DO.**
 1. Christians are people who have received Jesus Christ as **LORD** and **SAVIOR** by consciously turning from **SIN**, self-centeredness, and self-righteousness. The Bible defines this act of turning as *repentance*.
 2. Christians are people who have **TRUSTED** in Jesus alone for **FORGIVENESS** and **ACCEPTANCE** by God. The Bible defines this trust as *faith*. (Mark 1:14-15, Romans 6, Ephesians 4:1-6:9)

HOMEWORK FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS # 1

1. What is sin? (Jeremiah 17:9)
2. What should we do when we have sinned? (1 John 1:9)
3. What do I need to believe to have a relationship with God?
4. Do you have to be good in order for God to love you? What must you do for God to love you?
5. After accepting God as your Savior, what does God expect from you?
6. Can I ever lose God's love? Will God ever reject me after I become a Christian?
7. Memorize the Apostles' Creed.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.²

The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,³
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

² That is, Christ truly died and remained under the power of death until his resurrection.

³ That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.