

Why Are You Not a Christian?

Intro: Why are you not a Christian? Have you ever wanted to ask that question of someone? I sure have! And, as I've asked that question to people through the years, I have discovered that there are several responses that people give to the question. Let's consider some of them and what we might say to those responses.

I am afraid of what others will say about me.

I've known people through the years that felt that a decision to become a Christian would bring ridicule or disappointment from their family and friends. Jesus even indicated that the decision to follow him might bring that very result!

"Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two, and two against three. "They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (Luke 12:51-53)

But Jesus also revealed that the decision to follow him against the wishes of family and friends would be rewarded by him!

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life. (Matthew 19:29)

Don't let the disapproval of others get in the way of becoming a Christian!

There are too many hypocrites in the church

Sometimes there are hypocrites in the church and they ought to be rebuked and urged to repent; but sometimes an unbeliever can be too harsh in judging the attitudes and actions of those in the church. Without a doubt a person who looks at the church will see imperfect people.

And so I would this to the person who sees imperfect people in the church.

Yes, the church has imperfect people in it. In fact, it's the only kind of people the church has in it! (Verse) So, if you are looking for a church of perfect people, you would be looking for what doesn't exist! *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)*

In my experience virtually the members of the church are trying to serve God to the best of their ability. Do you notice that those imperfect people acknowledge their sins to God? Do you notice that those imperfect people are trying to learn how to be better?

That all that we can ask you to do is join with us as group of imperfect people trying to become more perfect!

There are things I just don't want to give up.

There are all kinds of things that people love too much to become a Christian.

Some love their weekends and don't want to be bothered with attending church services.

Some love vices that they know they will have give up like drinking, gambling, profanity.

Some love money and material things too much to become a Christian.

I am sorry if some earthly thing keeps you from following Jesus. And I want you to consider this:

Nothing we have or hope to obtain will go with us out of this life!

For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. (1 Timothy 6:7)

No sinful pleasure can compare with the eternal reward God has promised!

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. (Hebrews 11:24-26)

What can the devil offer you that can begin to compare with the reward God offers to those who live the Christian life?!

I'm not sure God could forgive me.

A very evil person might have doubts about whether God could forgive them to terrible things they've done. I've heard people who experienced the atrocities of war or just of the sinful actions of a wicked life say, "I'm not sure God could forgive me".

Are you the worst man who ever lived?

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service; even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:12-16)

Paul said, if God could forgive me, then he could forgive anybody!

I'm not a bad person and I don't believe God would send me to hell.

Surprising many respond in the opposite way. I don't think my sins are so bad as to send me to hell. Well, how bad is sin?

and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:32)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

Our sins may not seem so bad to us; but the Scriptures show us that they will cause us to receive God's eternal wrath and that only Christ sacrifice can atone for our transgression. Our sins were so bad that Jesus had to die to procure their forgiveness.

I want to make sure I can live the Christian life before I commit.

Such an attitude is commendable. I can understand a person not wanting to rush into something without contemplation of what it means to be a Christian and the consequences of the decision. Jesus urged people not to make a decision without first "counting the cost".

"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' (Luke 14:28-30)

Once that determination is made we need to make the commitment. The critical question is, "Can we have the Lord's inheritance if we've not become His children?"

I still have plenty of time to obey.

Sometimes people imagine that they have plenty of time to make a decision. But do we?

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. (James 4:13-14)

That's why it is important not to delay in obeying the Lord.

Conclusion: Why are you not a Christian? If I didn't give the reason you would give, let me give you one more verse to think about.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds. (Matthew 16:24-27)