

Why be a Christian?



God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3. 16

There are many people across the world today who believe the Bible is true and follow its teachings. As Christians they are very sure about what they believe and they stand up for their faith, sometimes in spite of severe opposition. Why do these these people become Christians?

Brought up as Christians?

Is it because they were brought up that way? There are people who think so, and say that when a child is born into a Christian home and is taught the Christian faith from an early age, that influence turns him or her into a Christian.

The facts are very different, however. You will find many believers who started life with no Christian influence and with no religious interest, while others were actually brought up to think that Christianity is wrong, or even foolish.

An outstanding example of this was Saul of Tarsus, a Jewish religious leader described in the Bible as a chief ring leader of early attempts to stamp out the Christian church. He fervently believed that Jesus Christ was an impostor and that all His claims and teachings were false. One day, on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus for their faith, Saul was encountered by Jesus Christ Himself and was immediately converted to the Christian faith. He became known as Paul, the man God used to write part of the New Testament, and was a fearless preacher of the Christian message in spite of great persecution from his former allies.

For the last sixty years or so China has been an atheistic communist state, teaching its citizens that there is no God, and several generations have grown up under that powerful influence. You would think that a country with a such a background of atheism would be the last place to find groups of Christians! But there are now at least sixty million Christians in China, a fact that is worrying the authorities who cannot deny that the Christian church is continuing to grow quickly.

There are countless other instances of ordinary people, young and old, who live with no serious thought for God until they hear the good news of God's salvation. Then to everyone's surprise, not least their own, they gladly believe in Jesus Christ and become Christians.

Because they are weak and need something to believe?

Is it because Christianity acts as a crutch for people who cannot cope with the pressures of life? Stronger characters have no need of such faith, it's said. Again, the truth is very different, for many people who are confident and successful in life have turned to the Lord Jesus Christ. and followed Him. In fact, to live as a Christian is no easy thing. It takes a great deal of strength to turn away from the powerful attraction of sin. It requires courage to remain faithful to God when people around you don't understand you and even mock you. Many of the commandments of Jesus are not for the weak! To love your enemies, for example, can be a difficult thing to do!

So why is it that people become Christians?

Convinced by the Bible!

Christians are those who recognise that there is a unique authority in the Bible. They have felt its power, believed its message and acted upon its teachings.

Facing God!

Our lives in this world are not for ever! We do not cease to exist after death, and we all have to have to face God as our Judge. The Bible makes it clear that we are all counted sinful by the Lord, and Christians realise that the only way to be forgiven and admitted into heaven is by turning away from sin and trusting Jesus Christ to save us and make us right with God.

More to life!

Christians know there is more to life than gathering possessions and enjoying the pleasures that this world offers. All these things can seem empty and unfulfilling, and they certainly all pass away. Believers find deep satisfaction and great happiness in life by devoting themselves to Jesus Christ.

Looking forward to heaven!

Christians live with one eye upon heaven. They know that through believing in Jesus Christ God has forgiven their sins and heaven is assured to them. It is certain that heaven will bring an end to all of this world's sorrows and introduce a level of joy and gladness not known in this present life.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will experience His saving love, and then you will see for yourself why it is that people become Christians!

