

10 Practical Steps in Following Jesus

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Step 1: The Work of Jesus

Who was Jesus?

- Jesus was who He claimed to be, then He was the most important person that ever lived. He claimed to be the Son of God, the Creator and Supreme ruler of the universe, who came into the world to rescue all mankind.
- If Jesus wasn't who he claimed to be then He must have either been mad or a confidence man. That would mean that millions of people throughout history have been fooled and even given up their lives for a lie. However, history itself has been changed by this man and about one-third of the world's population today at least nominally follow Him. Millions of people claim to know Him personally and they live their lives under His guidance and direction. If He was a liar or a lunatic, He made quite an impact!
- If Jesus is who He claims and He did die, was raised from the dead and went to be with His Father in heaven, then He is alive today and we ignore Him at our peril.

Could He be the vital ingredient your life is missing? Is He the piece of jigsaw that makes all the other pieces make sense?

What did Jesus do for us?

He came to:

1) *Deliver us from Judgement*

“Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement.”

(Hebrews 9:27)

Physical death is not the greatest threat to a person. Death in a spiritual sense is a more horrific prospect. This means absolute and eternal separation from a loving God. God's judgement of spiritual death is a consequence of our sin. However, Jesus carried our sins and took the judgement on Himself so that those who trust in Him need fear no judgement.

2) *To show us the love of God*

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

(I John 4:10)

The love of God for every one of us is beyond human understanding. This is not mere friendship, affection or loyalty: not even the deepest love between two human beings. It is 'agape', the sacrificial love of God who gives Himself completely to save His creation, man.

3) *To make forgiveness possible*

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

(Ephesians 1:7)

Guilt is the universal problem of the human race. Often we feel guilty but don't know what we feel guilty about. The truth is that our sin has separated us from God and disrupted our consciences and this is the cause of our feelings of guilt. Jesus, however, carried that guilt on our behalf and by putting our trust in Him we can be forgiven for all that we have done to displease God. Then we will no longer be separated from God and we will be free from guilt.

4) *To bring us back to God*

“Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”

(I Peter 3:18)

Man is a stranger, lost on his own planet. His rebellion and pride have separated him from his Maker. He has lost his home and his way back home. Jesus came to save the lost and through His death He has made the way back to God.

5) *To release the healing power of God*

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree ... by his wounds you have been healed.”

(I Peter 2:24)

Sickness and pain were never part of God’s original plan for man. They are not part of His future plan either (see Revelation 21:4). Today you can know the healing and delivering power of God. On the Cross, Jesus entered into our suffering and pain and rescued us from both the power and the effects of sin and sickness.

6) *To overcome the powers of evil*

“Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

(Colossians 2:15)

The powers of darkness threaten to engulf mankind. Satan (the devil) is the prince of darkness and he tries to keep people blind as far as God is concerned. But on the Cross, Jesus confronted every power of evil and satan himself and through His death and resurrection He overthrew them completely.

7) *To rescue us from death*

“That by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by

their fear of death.”

(Hebrews 2:14,15)

‘Death is a terrible thing for it is an end’, said Aristotle the philosopher. But the ‘grim reaper’ holds no fear for the Christian because his trust is in Jesus who went into death and broke its power completely through the power of His resurrection.

8) *To give us resurrection power*

“If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”

(Romans 6:5)

This does not mean that we have to wait until after we die to experience the resurrection power of God. We can know it now! Apart from God’s power we are spiritual weaklings. We do not have the ability to handle ourselves let alone the situations we find ourselves in every day. God wants to put into our lives the same power by which He raised Jesus from the dead (see Ephesians 1:18-23).

Prayer

Almighty God, Jesus seems to have done so much for me. If Jesus really is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world then I do want to know Him personally. Open my eyes and show me the truth. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.