

Survey of Key Questions about the Christian Life

Question	Traditional Perspective	Our Emphasis
What is a Christian?	Someone who believes in Jesus. Someone who has confessed their sin and personally accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord.	A person who is born again. A person who has become a new person with Jesus living inside. Someone in whom Jesus lives.
Why become a Christian?	To be forgiven of my sins so I can go to heaven when I die.	Because I am born dead (separated from life) and I need life today, not only after I die.
What happens if one doesn't become a Christian?	I will go to hell after I die and my sins won't be forgiven.	I will live here on earth without life and will have to try to make life work in my own natural resources (out of the flesh). I will be stuck in a system that forces me live a life all alone with no real meaning where I have to be self-reliant, self-focused, self-centered, and self-sufficient
How does one live the Christian life on a daily basis?	By trying to know the will of God (understand God's laws, standards, and principles) and do the will of God (obey God). By asking God to help me to do the right thing.	By living under Grace (out of the Spirit) and not under Law (out of the resources of the flesh). By abiding in Christ & trusting Christ within as Life. Choosing to let Christ express His life in and through the believer.
What is eternal life?	Life forever with God after I die. It begins the minute I become a Christian.	It is a life with no beginning and no end. Eternal Life is God's Life. It is the life of Christ. It is the one and only life that works. It is the gift of Christ's life today ... the life that does work (a life of love, joy, peace, patience) ... in exchange for my life (a life of self-centeredness that doesn't work.)
What happened on the cross?	Jesus died for my sins so I could go to heaven when I die and so I could live without guilt here on earth when I mess up.	Two main events happened on the cross: 1) Jesus died for my sins so I could be cleansed of my sins and receive life, and 2) I was crucified (spiritually) with Christ so I could exchange my old life in Adam (life focused on self / the flesh) for my new life in Christ (life in the Spirit).
Why should a Christian not sin?	Because God said not to ... because I will hurt myself and hurt others ... because it brings dishonor to the name of Christ ... because it is a poor witness to others, etc.	Because I am in union with Christ and have died to sin. I am a saint and for me to sin is going against who I am ... a new creation in Christ. I am going against the Life God has placed in me. Because it is stupid.