

What it comes down to is that sin carries a penalty of death. Someone has to pay that penalty. Because of His great love for us, God sent His only Son to this world to die for all mankind. When Jesus Christ hung on the cross, He was there for you. He was suffering that you might live. He paid your penalty. And all He asks is that you accept His invitation and ask Him for forgiveness.

What happens then?

When you surrender your life to Jesus, He will fully satisfy the hunger in your soul. You will be born again. Paul the Apostle put it this way: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Often new Christians feel as if they need an introduction to themselves! The desire for sin is gone. In its place will be a peace and a joy beyond anything you've experienced.

What has happened is that you've changed masters. Instead of following Satan, the deceiver of mankind, you will now be following the Son of God. He will be a friend to you, and He will personally lead you through both the good places and the hard times of life. And if you purpose to stay true to Him, one day He will take you to Heaven to dwell eternally in His presence.

Does this sound good to you? It should. But be assured that there is no way mere words on paper can begin to communicate the fullness of what it means to be born again. You have to experience it for yourself.

Many have refused God's invitation, closed the door, and stepped out into eternity unprepared. There in the terrible darkness of Hell they have wished with everything in them that they had said yes instead of no. Don't join their number, but accept the invitation to a born-again experience and eternal life. Do it today. When you make that step, you'll be happy you did.

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YOU ARE
Invited

Have you ever received an invitation to something you just weren't interested in? Most of us have. But have you ever found out later that the invitation you declined was one you really wish you had accepted?

There is a standing invitation extended to you today that is the most important one you'll ever get. What is it? Jesus Christ invites you to follow Him by becoming a Christian. You may think this way isn't for you. You may even have what you feel are solid reasons why you shouldn't accept. But because becoming a Christian is a spiritual experience, you aren't in a position to make such a judgment unless you've tried it.

The starving man . . .

Consider a starving man who answers the door to his house and finds a person holding a big box. He is informed that it contains food. But the man looks at the box and though he has no idea what's inside, he says he's sure he doesn't like that kind of food. So, despite his need, he doesn't accept the gift. The person carrying the box tries to assure him that he will certainly like the food and that it will fully satisfy his hunger. But the needy man refuses to believe this, closes the door, and dies a short time later.

If you've never been a true Christian, you

YOU'LL NEVER RECEIVE A MORE IMPORTANT INVITATION IN YOUR LIFE.

can't possibly understand what it means to be one. Why? The Bible tells us that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). So to state that you know for sure Christianity isn't for you is to be like the starving man refusing the life-giving food.

Recognizing your need

You may be wondering how to "spiritually discern" the value of becoming a Christian. The first step is to recognize that you have a need. You may not fully realize it, but until you turn your life over to Jesus Christ, you are starving spiritually. The spiritual part of you, the part that will live eternally somewhere, is in deep need of being fed. And try as you will, you'll

never satisfy that hunger with anything except Jesus—not fame, not wealth, nor any of the beckoning paths that this world offers you. Christ alone can fill your spiritual need.

Once you've recognized this need, the next step is to let God know that you want to accept His invitation. How? Through prayer. Wherever you are, you can get in touch with the Creator of the universe simply by speaking to Him in prayer. Here's an important tip: Be honest. God isn't fooled by insincere words for He knows your innermost thoughts and desires. Freely confess to Him that you have a need. Admit that you have done things that weren't right and that you desire to be forgiven.

But I'm not so bad!

If you're thinking that you haven't done anything that needs forgiveness, you must realize that everyone needs forgiveness. It's true that while some have done many outwardly bad things, others may appear to have lived good lives. But the Bible tells us that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). It also tells us that the "wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). If you want eternal life, it is available if you will be deeply sorry for your sins and turn away from them.