

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

You are not an accident or a mistake. God created all people for a purpose and with a desire to be in a personal relationship with Him. When we do not connect with God in this personal way we are left with an emptiness that cannot quite be explained. The only thing we know for sure is that something is greatly missing.

Many times people try and fill this void with other relationships, hobbies, food, jobs, money, etc., but all these things leave us dissatisfied and a longing for something more. The big question becomes, “How do I fill this emptiness in my soul?” Christianity stands on the belief that the answer to that question is Jesus!

In the Biblical book of Romans the writer goes through the process of how we can connect with God.

1. God is holy and righteous and *our* sins have broken the relationship we were created to have with a perfect God. Sin is simply trying to do things our way instead of God’s way.

“Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious ideal” Romans 3:23ESV
“No one is good—no one in all the world is innocent.” Romans 3:10ESV

2. The consequence of sin is separation from God, which the Bible describes as ‘death.’

“For the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23ESV

3. Since we are not good enough to fix this problem on our own, God made a way for us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8ESV

4. Jesus bore our sins and punishment when more than 2,000 years ago. He was killed on the cross. It was a gift given to us by God. Like any gift it has to be received in order to be of any value. The way we receive it is through **confession**, asking God to forgive us of our sins, and **faith**, believing that Jesus was crucified and brought back to life to save us from our sins.

“For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord and believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God; and with his mouth he tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation.” Romans 10:9-10ESV

5. This restored relationship with God is a life-long journey. We need to connect with other believers (**church**), read God’s Word (**the Bible**), spend time talking with God (**prayer**), and share this good news with others.

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17ESV

If you would like to be saved from your sins and begin this personal relationship with God we invite you to confess your sins and ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. Your words do not have to be fancy. There is no magic formula. God simply wants to hear from you. If you would like help putting your words into a prayer we suggest the following:

“Dear God, forgive me of my sins. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and through His resurrection defeated the sting of death. I want to commit my life to Jesus and live for Him. Help me draw closer to you and give me the power to overcome temptation in my life so that I can be the person you are calling me to be.”

If you have any questions or if you made a commitment to Jesus Christ for the first time please contact Pastor John Hogsett or Pastor Sarah Miller.