

How to Become a Christian

Many people believe they are Christians because they were born in a Christian culture, go to church regularly, try to do their best, or live a good life. However, the Bible teaches that these things cannot make you a Christian. You become a Christian by simply taking these two steps:

- Acknowledge that you (along with all people) have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. ROMANS 3:23
- Personally believe that Jesus Christ, who was God in human flesh, died for your sins on the cross and rose again. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3, 4

You may express your belief through prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving Him as God's gift to you.

JOHN 1:12, ROMANS 6:23, REVELATION 3:20

EPHESIANS 2:8, 9 For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast.

Dr. Kevin McKee
Sermon Notes

October 21, 2012
The Chapel on the Campus

Beware of Deceit

ACTS 4:32-5:11

God's people are accountable in God's community.

"One act of secrecy and selfishness violates the character of openness and honesty which characterized the earliest community of Jesus' followers."
– Witherington, Acts, 215

The Community: An example of great _____

- **The gospel unites believers' _____.**

Acts 4:32a *All the believers were one in heart and mind.*

- **The gospel frees believers from desiring material _____.**

Acts 4:32b *No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.*

1 Timothy 6:6-8 *But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

- **The gospel creates a culture of _____.**

Acts 4:33-37 *With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.*

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Ananias and Sapphira: An example of great _____

- Greed keeps us _____ seeking to look more generous than we are.

Acts 5:1-2 *Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.*

Proverbs 20:10 *Differing weights and differing measures—the Lord detests them both.*

- The Holy Spirit _____ deceit in the community because He is _____.

In Ananias' Life

Acts 5:3-4 *Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."*

In Sapphira's Life

Acts 5:7-9a *About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"*

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

⁹ *Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?"*

In Your Life

John 16:7-11 *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going*

to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- God _____ deceit.

In Ananias' Life

Acts 5:5-6 *When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶ Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.*

In Sapphira's Life

Acts 5:9b-11 *Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."*

¹⁰ *At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*

In Your Life

Proverbs 3:12 *Because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*

Beware of Deceit

- In your own life – _____
- In your community's life – _____
- When it is disciplined – _____