

What Does it Mean to Accept Christ - Part 1

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I. One's relationship to Jesus Christ is a matter of life or death.

A. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

B. We are saved by Christ alone without works.

II. How can one come into relationship with Him then?

A. He does not save everyone; therefore, there must be some special means to come into relationship with Him.

1. We cannot assume on this issue.

2. The relationship must be there before you can accept that it is there.

3. To be wrong on this issue is to be lost.

B. Three answers.

1. Believe on Christ. (Acts 16:31)

2. Receive Christ as Savior. (John 1:12)

3. Accept Christ as your Personal Savior.

a. *Accept* does not appear in the Bible.

b. It is possible to teach truth and not use words in the Bible.

1) If you speak something that is the sum of what the Bible is saying without using the same words, you are speaking truth.

c. Saying *accept* means to both believe and receive.

d. This passive acceptance has become fatal.

1) The word *accept* makes it no inconvenience for the man who does it - it is passive.

2) The cross was inconvenient for Christ and it is a most inconvenient thing for the believer too.

3) How would it have worked in Old Testament times?

a) The Egyptians did not stay in Egypt when the Passover blood was applied; they proved their belief in the power of God by leaving Egypt.

b) The story of the Prodigal Son. What if hypothetically the son had just accepted his father's forgiveness and never returned to him?

e. Evangelism today leaves the sinner in his sins. The man in his sins will be damned as certainly as the sun goes down in the west.

1) If anyone is to follow Jesus, he is to take up his cross.

2) If someone comes to Jesus, he does not enrich him. Nor can he be impoverished.

a) We are the ones who gain.

3) Nobody wants to deny himself - this runs contrary to human nature. Evangelists today want to deny that we have to go against this.

a) Jesus laid a challenge before us that we have neglected.

b) Ministers have stepped up the quantity of people and not the quality of people.

c) Jesus simply says, come. He does not beg or compromise.

f. Acceptance of Christ is to form an attachment to the Person of Christ.

1) It is not to fall in love with a tender faced Jesus. It is to realize that He is mighty Lord.

2) The attachment is revolutionary in transforming the life.

3) If the conversion did not change the life, you are only part of the 'accept Jesus' heresy.

4) It means that you cannot compartmentalize your life.

5) The attachment:

a) Emotional, intellectual, volitional.

b) Exclusive.

i. A Christian is one who specializes.

ii. All other possible hopes and saviors are neglected.

iii. All other relationships are formed by this one relationship.

6) If you are not so given to Jesus that you would forsake your life for Him, it is difficult to see you as a Christian.

Application questions.

1. Describe the “acceptance heresy” that the speaker sets out to illustrate. What is incorrect about this viewpoint according to him?

2. What does an attachment to Jesus look like? Why is this crucial?

3. The speaker ends with a strong statement concerning the willingness to give up one’s life for Christ as a means to determine whether one is a Christian. What is your reaction to this? What is personally challenging about this statement?
