

2. *You shall not make for yourself any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

3. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*

4. *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord your God: in it you shall do no work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day and hallowed it.*

5. *Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God gives you.*

6. *You shall not murder.*

7. *You shall not commit adultery.*

8. *You shall not steal.*

9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.*

10. *You shall not covet your neighbour's house, you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbour's.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ reminded us that God's Law is not simply a series of prohibitions when He quoted its summary:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

For further help, we recommend a study of the *Heidelberg Catechism*, one of the most famous of all the confessions of the Reformed Churches. This is available in *The Book of Praise (Anglo-Genevan Psalter)*.
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(Dr Alan C. Clifford)

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life' (John 3: 16).

So, you are convinced that you are a sinner in need of salvation, and you want to become a Christian? That's wonderful! You have heard or read the 'good news' of John 3: 16. You have discovered that Jesus, the Son of God came into the world to die for you and bring you peace with the holy, sin-hating but merciful and sinner-loving God of the universe. Now you need to know what to do next.

First, with an open Bible before you, believe God's promise (Jn. 3: 16) with firm confidence, confessing your sins to Him in prayer.

Second, trust only in the Lord Jesus Christ, receiving Him as your personal Saviour and Lord. Ask Him to pardon and bless you - and He will!

Third, relying on the power of God's

Holy Spirit for spiritual light, life and power, yield your life to God and dedicate yourself to the service of Christ.

Fourth, you should link up with a Christian church where the Pastor teaches the Word of God faithfully. If you were not baptised in infancy you should profess your faith in baptism. Encouraged to join other Christians in public worship, you will now read the Bible and pray regularly at home.

Fifth, you will now desire to speak of Christ to others. By word and deed, you will seek to live a life of joyful and holy obedience, showing the truth and love of God to others day by day.

You will now see that the Christian life involves your whole being - mind, heart and will, soul and body. Having made a start, it is essential to grow. As you understand more of the Bible, God's Truth will transform you. As you promote your spiritual life through prayer in daily dependence on the Holy Spirit, you will grow.

For a brief guide to grasping the great truths of Christianity, the summary known as '**The Apostles' Creed**' is very useful. There is no better guide

for prayer than the 'pattern prayer' Jesus gave to His apostles (or disciples). This is known as '**The Lord's Prayer**'. While we are pardoned or justified before God *not* through our personal merit but by trusting only in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (see Romans 3: 28; 5: 1, 9), the **Ten Commandments** (see Exodus 20) still provide us with daily guidance under the Lordship of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit (see Romans 8: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 9: 21). Thus from the *root* of a living and loving faith (see Galatians 5: 6) will come the *fruit* of good works, pleasing to God though the merit of Christ (see Ephesians 2: 8-10). However, our imperfect obedience will always point us to the pardoning blood of Christ (see 1 John 1: 7-9). Thus salvation is all of God's grace from beginning to end.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(updated Reformed version)

*I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ,
His only-begotten Son, our Lord;
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary;
He was condemned under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered upon the cross,
feeling the torments of hell;
He died and was buried;*

*On the third day He arose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit;
I acknowledge a holy, universal, Apostolic
and Reformed Church, and the communion
of saints; I believe in the forgiveness of
sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory for ever. Amen.*

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*And God spoke all these words, saying:
I am the Lord your God...*

1. *You shall have no other gods before me.*