

How to Lead a Soul to Christ

If I were to ask you if you could lead a soul to Christ, what would you answer? You may be able to give some very important information, quote a Bible verse or so and give someone a general idea of what it means to become Christian. Wouldn't it be great to be able to take the Bible and lead someone to a saving knowledge of Christ? The Bible says, "...*He that winneth souls is wise*" (Proverbs 11:30). Let us examine how we could enter the ranks of one whom God declares wise. Let's observe four simple steps to leading a soul to Christ:

(1) Admit

A person must accept the fact that they are a sinner. "*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one*" (Romans 3:10). I'm not righteous, you're not righteous. "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). To sin means to miss the mark. We have all fallen far short of God's holiness. We were recipients of a sinful nature from the inception of our existence: "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" (Romans 5:12). There are many things that we have inherited which we do not always appreciate; the most catastrophic by far is the sin nature. It's in our DNA. Therefore, we are under dual condemnation - we are sinners by nature and sinners by choice.

(2) Acknowledge

Christ, the sinless Son of God, eternally co-existent, co-equal, co-regent with the Father and the Holy Spirit condescended to earth, becoming flesh and dwelling among us for one main purpose. "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*" (II Corinthians 5:21). The main purpose of Christ's coming was to die for our sins according to the Scriptures. "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). The only way God can accept sinful people into His presence is through the forgiveness of sins, provided solely by Christ's death on the cross. All the Old Testament sacrifices pointed to this fact. These ceremonies, which were only a picture, are no longer necessary. "*...without shedding of blood is no remission*" (Hebrews 9:22). "*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*" (Hebrews 10:10).

A young man was drowning in Lake Michigan when a man on his way to work saw him and without hesitation tore off his jacket, kicked off his shoes, dived into the water and rescued him. Two years later a young man stood before a court having been found guilty of first-degree murder. As the youth stood to be judged, he was asked if he had something to say. The young man having already recognized the judge from the beginning of the preceding said, "Judge, don't you remember? I'm the young man that you saved in Lake Michigan!" The judge about to pass judgment to the maximum extent of the law firmly replied, "Yes, son, I recognize you very well. That day I was your savior; today I am your judge." If we do not acknowledge Jesus as Savior and Lord in this life with the opportunity God gives us, we too will find that He who was more than willing to

save us, now must judge us. *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* (Revelation 20:15).

(3) Repent

The Bible says, *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”* (Exodus 20:5). Have you ever placed any person or thing before God? *“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain”* (Exodus 20:7). Have you ever used God’s name carelessly, in jest or as conjoined with an expletive? I think of how carelessly people use God’s holy name, even to using the abbreviation “OMG” to say, “O my _____”. *“Honour thy father and thy mother...”* (Exodus 20:12). Have you ever disrespected your parents, talked back to them or disobeyed them? *“Thou shalt not kill.”* (Exodus 20:13). It is most sobering to understand that God’s Word says, *“Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”* (I John 3:15). Have you ever hated anyone? Many have comforted themselves with the commandment, *“Thou shalt not commit adultery”* (Exodus 20:14) boasting they have never done that. Really? Jesus said, *“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”* (Matthew 5:28). *“Thou shalt not steal”* (Exodus 20:15). Have you ever once taken something that did not belong to you? *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour”* (Exodus 20:16). Have you ever told a lie, even what has been called, “a little white lie”? I did not exhaust the list of God’s commandments and already you can see where we have fallen short in deed and in spirit. Even if you felt like you have kept most of the commandments, the Bible says, *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”* (James 2:10). In light of this how shall we respond? God’s Word demands, *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”* (Acts 3:19). Jesus said, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Luke 13:3,5). Repent means to feel and express one’s remorse about wrongdoing. It means to be going in one direction and doing a military style “about face.” It is more than being sorry your sin was discovered; it is truly being sorry that you committed sin. The law of God was not given to leave you in a condemned, helpless state. *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”* (Galatians 3:24). Coming to Christ by faith will bring forgiveness and a new life.

(4) Receive

The Bible says, *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* (John 1:12). *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). Usually wages are positive, unless it is the wages of our sin. If we die without Christ, the penalty is eternity in Hell, a place of torment and separation from God forever.

Salvation is a gift you cannot earn and none of us deserve. God wants you to receive Himself through the person of Jesus Christ. There is no other way, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto*

the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

How do we do this? “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10: 9, 10 and 13).

Right now let me encourage you to pray with me. “...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (II Corinthians 6:2). Pray this prayer or one similar to this with me and mean it from your heart: “Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. Forgive me of my sins. I believe that Jesus died for me and was buried and rose again. I repent of my sins. Come into my heart, my life and be my all in all. I love you, Lord. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

-Pastor’s Word-