

How to begin a relationship with God

(scripture taken from the NIV)

1. Recognize that God loves you so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross for you.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life

“I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”- Galatians 2:20

2. Repent of your sin. This means to admit to God you are a sinner, ask forgiveness of your sins and with His help, turn away from your sins.

“...but unless you repent, you too will all perish.” – Luke 13:3

“The kingdom God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”- Mark 1:15

3. Believe and Trust in Him as your Savior. This means that you accept God’s offer of love, mercy, and forgiveness. This means that you trust Jesus Christ as your only Savior. This means that you are free from struggling and trying to save yourself by your good works, baptism, confirmation, church membership or attendance, and that you rely on Jesus Christ alone for your salvation.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!” – Romans 6:23

“For by grace you have been saved through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8, 9

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

4. Confess Christ. This means that you will not be ashamed to let others know that you are a Christian and have a relationship with God. When you trust in Christ, you should let someone else know about it.

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32

“That is you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

YOU CAN NOW BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

Lord, I admit that I need you, I ask you to forgive and set me free from sin and death. I believe that Jesus died to provide forgiveness for my sins to restore my relationship with You, and to fill me with His joy. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ to come into my life as Savior and Lord. From this time on, help me to live in a loving, obedient relationship with you. Thank You, Lord!

If you prayed to the Lord and genuinely meant what you prayed, please share your decision with Pastor or someone else you know who trusts in Jesus. They would be thrilled to hear of your decision today!

A Faithful Christian– A Study in I Timothy January 13, 2019 Caring and the Kingdom Pastor Scott Sheets I Timothy 5:9-16

Caring can C_____ to the Kingdom

Caring can C_____ to the Kingdom

Conclusion:

(All services are recorded and available online at www.riversideefc.com)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways that caring has helped the cause of Christ?
2. How would caring for the widows described in verses 9-10 been a positive witness for the gospel?
3. What are the character traits underlying the activities Paul describes in verses 9-10? How do you think society would respond to those character traits today?
4. What activities would demonstrate those character traits in our society today?
5. How does the widow in verses 11-13 damage the cause of Christ? How would supporting such widows enable them?
6. Why do you think Paul took the time to address this matter to Timothy?
7. What are ways the church's ministry or your personal ministry can positively or negatively affect the cause of Christ? Explain.
8. Share any other thoughts, questions, or comments you might have.

I Timothy 5:9-16 ESV

²Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, ¹⁰and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. ¹¹But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry ¹²and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. ¹³Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. ¹⁴So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. ¹⁵For some have already strayed after Satan. ¹⁶If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.