



## For and against becoming a Christian

For many people, the reasons for not becoming a Christian are very clear.

'I don't need God. I'm all right as I am. Becoming a Christian may be OK for some, but not for me. I'm happy as I am, and Christianity has nothing to offer me. I don't want to be rude, but I believe religion is for wimps—those who can't face life without some sort of crutch. I'm not like that; I'm in control of my life, and I don't need anything else.'

'I couldn't imagine anything more miserable than being a Christian. All that hymn-singing and listening to

sermons—what a bore! There are so many things I enjoy in life that Christians disapprove of. I can do without that. Christianity is not for me.'

'All Christians are hypocrites. They say one thing and do another. I can remember the unkindnesses done to me over the years by Christians, and I want nothing to do with them.'

These are just three of many reasons people give for not becoming a Christian, reasons which are felt deeply by those who give them. Perhaps you feel the same way and could add other reasons. As far as you're concerned, being a Christian is not for you. But though these reasons are genuine, are they reasonable?

Who, for instance, is really in control of his or her life? One little virus can shatter all our plans and ambitions. A sudden illness can change the whole course of a person's life. And who, at one time or another, does not need a 'crutch'? No one is completely self-sufficient. It's impossible in this life. And would it surprise you to know that Jesus called the religious leaders of his time 'hypocrites'? There will always be some in any walk of life who say one thing and do another, but that does not mean all Christians are hypocrites.

## Hopelessness

Let me give you one reason why you should become a Christian: **You are a sinner.**

This means you've broken God's law. Sin is a terrible thing. It doesn't mean breaking society's codes, or having a character flaw: it's open rebellion against your Creator. It's taking up arms against Almighty God—and that will get you nowhere.

Sin leaves you in this world without God and without hope—no hope now, and no hope for the future. You probably wouldn't think that your situation was hopeless, but that's exactly what it is apart from Christ. Maybe you may think this is insulting, but what is it you hope for? Isn't it true that most of your hopes are centred on personal ambition or material gain? These hopes are as fragile as a butterfly's wings. You may think you've achieved them for a while, but they are easily snatched from you. And what hope do you have beyond this life? You probably don't think about that, and dismiss it as pointless speculation. That's the blindness of sin. It won't let you think beyond this life.

## Salvation

You need to become a Christian because you're a sinner and Christ is God's only remedy for sin. Jesus Christ is our only hope because he is the only Saviour.

What does Christ offer you?

He offers a full and complete pardon for all sin—past, present and future. He offers to fill your life with purpose and joy.

He offers to give you a hope that goes beyond the grave, so that all fear of death is gone.

A Christian has all this and much more in Christ. The Christian faith is not a crutch but a solid foundation that is not shaken by life's circumstances.

This is why you need to become a Christian. But you will never become a Christian until you see that you're a sinner in need of salvation, and that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. If you believe this, then confess your sin to Christ. Ask him for grace and mercy to deal with that sin, and come to Jesus in repentance (turning from your sin) and faith (trusting only Jesus to save you).

Grace means God giving you what you don't deserve. None of us deserves salvation and none of us could ever earn it. Salvation is the free gift of God to sinners who trust only in Jesus to deal with their sin.

***You're a sinner, and only Jesus Christ can save you from the consequences of your sin.***

***This reason for becoming a Christian cancels out all your arguments against it.***

*Text: Peter Jeffery  
Illustrations: Bradley Goodwin*

© DayOne Publications  
www.dayone.co.uk