

A Brief Survey of the Basis of the Christian Life

Biblical Christianity revolves around and is centered in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Son of God, our Redeemer and Lord, and through Whom we know God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

1. Our relationship with God is based on His love, grace and Word.
John 3:16 and Eph 2:8,9
2. Our response to His revelation is that of faith, love and hope.
1 Cor 13:13; 1 Thess 1:3
3. We are vulnerable to three enemies: our fleshly nature, the world, and the Devil.
The fleshly nature – Gal 5:19-21
The world – 1 John 2:15-17
The Devil – 1 Peter 5:8,9
4. We are largely controlled by our enemies through error, which causes us to sin. The acceptance of error and the resultant act of sin opens the door.
Fall of man – Gen 3:1-7
Kadesh Barnea – Numbers 13,14
The Lord Jesus' temptation – Matt 4:1-11
Peter's response – Matt 16:21-23
Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:1-11
The Church at Galatia – Gal 3:1-5
5. Jesus Christ defeated our enemies and has delivered us from them all.
The fleshly nature – Rom 6:1-13
The world – John 16:33
The Devil – Col 2:15; Heb 2:14-16
6. We are vulnerable to the control of our enemies largely through error. Error leads to sin, which leads to bondage, and then more error, etc., until we are nearly helpless.
Rom 6:16-18; Gal 6:7,8; James 1:13-16
7. The way error and control comes to us is through our parents (ancestral lines), our personal involvement, relationships with individuals and organizations.
Parents – Ex 20:4; Lam 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18
Personal involvement – Acts 5:1-11
Relationships – 2 Cor 6:14-7:1
Organizations – 2 Cor 2:5-11

8. The way out is only through the person and work of the Lord Jesus, the obedience of rejecting error and sin, and total surrender and trust in His deliverance.
Involvement with Him as a person – John 14:6; 15:5; Rom 12:1,2
Obedience of rejecting error and sin – Rom 6:16-18; Eph 5:11; 1 Peter 5:8,9;
1 John 1:5-10; 2:15-17
Total surrender and trust in His deliverance – Psalm 50:15; Psalm 51; Matt 11:28-30;
Rom 6:16-18; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9; Rev 12:11
9. The error may come to us mentally, emotionally or physically. And, it comes through people, circumstances, organizations and the Devil talking to us through the above plus in subliminal ways (particularly when sleeping).
Mentally, emotionally and physically – Gen 3:1-7; Matt 4:1-11
People, circumstances and organizations – (see # 7 above)
10. It is vitally important to depend on the Lord Jesus, seek His guidance, surrender to Him and His Word, choose to receive His love in worship times, engage in thanksgiving, invite Him into all the problems and issues, read, apply, and obey the Bible.
Dependence – Matt 11:28-30; John 15:5
Seek guidance – John 14:15-21
Surrender to Him and His Word – Rom 12:1,2; James 1:22
Choose to receive His love in worship times – Eph 3:14-21
Thanksgiving – Phil 4:6,7
Invite Him into all the issues – Matt 11:28-30; 1 John 1:7, 9
Read, apply and obey the Bible – Matt 7:24-27; Heb 2:1-4; 4:1-12; James 1:22
11. We must learn to reject error in all its forms the moment we are aware of it. Make choices, often by sheer faith—not to accept, submit to, and practice error in any way. We cannot do this by ourselves or sheer will power. Personal involvement with Jesus Christ and believing the truth instead of error is vitally necessary. Keep in mind that behind any bondage, anger, lust, unforgiveness, etc., is error and the solution is involvement with Jesus Christ Who is our Redeemer, Lord and the Truth. It is in this area that we must begin to obey God, be filled with the Spirit, and live in freedom. Use the handout, ***Taking Charge of Our Thinking.***

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