

7 Reasons Why Some People Do Not Become Christians

Acts 26:1-32

Have you ever stopped to think why it is, that your husband or wife, family, friends, or co-workers do not believe in Christ and become a Christian? I know that the reasons are many and that we could not deal with them all in this article, but I'd like to suggest a few for us to consider.

Below are seven common reasons people give for not becoming a Christian. Many are *almost* Christians, but to be almost, is to be a non Christian.

Examining these will help us become more conscious of what people think and what we say and do as Christians, knowing the possible reactions from others.

1. They Were Hurt By A Christian

One of the most voiced reasons why people do not become a Christian, is that a good trusted Christian friend mistreated them or let them down. It can be a financial investment that goes wrong. It can be a break in confidentiality where trust is betrayed. It can be an unkind act where a family member is mistreated. It can be a husband or wife who says and does unkind things.

The problem is that some Christians are not "growing" spiritually. They need to live according to the teaching of the Bible. It is sad, but Christians do fall into sin. Christians who hurt others need to be made accountable by fellow Christians and face up to their wrong doing. It takes courage to confront, to care and to heal. The Bible says, *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Follow God's example in everything you do and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us"* (Ephesians 4: 31- 5:2).

However, we are making a big mistake if we let the sins or hurts of others stop us from gaining eternal life. Jesus will straighten them out as they go into heaven and he will do the same for you too.

2. They Could Not Understand Church Talk

Everyone has their own educational level and can be hindered by "Church terms" or "Bible talk" in words they can't understand. Perhaps they have heard or read a Bible verse that does not make sense to them. Often well meaning Christians quote a Bible verse inappropriately and insensitively. People can get lost in Bible terms like, reconciliation justification, sanctification, and righteousness. They cannot comprehend their meaning. Christians talk of election or predestination and do not explain their meaning in an understandable way.

The Bible calls for a childlike trust, a simple faith or belief in Jesus. To be saved, we need to repent of our sins and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We need only believe in and rely upon Christ with all our heart and soul and mind. The Bible says, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31). Do not let Christianese stop you from becoming a Christian. Remember, God will help us all understand the "fine print" later as we grow as Christians.

3. They Were Turned Off By A Christian

This is one of the biggest stumbling blocks. A family member becomes a Christian and his or her life does not live up to what they preach. They talk of God, Christ and the Bible, but do not behave any different to what they were before becoming a Christian.

Some Christians do not show the love they speak about. They are still angry people, who lose control in situations and hurt other people by their speech and behavior. They do not apologise easily and pride rules their lives. This is terribly wrong!

Other people get a religious high out of becoming

a Christian. They throw themselves into reading and quoting the Bible and use prayer unrealistically. They seem to deny real life situations and act like they have all the answers. Some become over committed to their church both financially and in attendance. They spend more time with God and the church than they do with the family. They preach at their family and judge them and this really hurts. The Bible instructs Christians to live kind, caring and loving lives (Ephesians 4:1- 6:23).

4. They Worry About Their Family

This is a real problem for some people. They do not want to become a Christian if some of their family members are not Christians. Their family becomes the most important thing in life. They want to hold on to their family and control them. They would rather go to hell with their family than go to heaven without them.

They fail to realize that every person in the world makes individual choices. All family members will ultimately do what they feel is best for them. We cannot even guess their future decisions.

This delusion forgets that a family member or friend may change their mind later in life and become a Christian. Then if we have not become a Christian, they will be in heaven and we will be in hell. The Bible explains and warns each of us that we must make a personal decision that determines our destiny. Everyone is personally responsible and accountable to God for the decision they make. They must believe- Heb.11:6.

Also, a point worth remembering, is that when we get to heaven we will not have lasting regrets about our family who did not believe. God will wipe away all tears and painful memories. Our new friends in heaven will be like family to us. There will be no sadness or sorrow in heaven.

So, if you are not a Christian, now is the time to become one. The Bible says, *"Now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation"* (2 Corinthians 6:2). Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved (John 1:12-13).

5. They Believe Prayer Does Not Work

Many people pray to God and do not get answers. They use God in emergency situations to call on a greater power to help them. When nothing significant happens, they not only doubt the existence of God, but they turn their backs on Him.

The fact is the prayer God answers for a non Christian is what the Bible calls a sinner's prayer. It is the prayer a person prays when they ask Jesus to be their Savior and Lord (Isaiah 45:22).

God joyfully answers the prayers of those who love him and are true believers. The Bible is full of instruction on how and when to pray. The Christian can pray to God and expect God to answer.

Paul told the early Christians, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:6-7).

If you think prayer does not work, then come to Jesus now and become a Christian and God will hear your prayers and answer them according to His will.

6. They Have Heard Bad Things About Religion

Some News Media or books say Christianity, like other religions, is to blame for the ills of society and war among nations. They hear about a Priest who is a paedophile or a philandering Pastor. These sins are bad and should never be committed. But *"one rotten apple does not mean all the apples are bad."*

The fact is that neither "Christianity" nor God are to blame for the atrocities people commit. Their own sinful hearts cause them to say and do vile and hurtful things. Not every "religious person" is in truth a Christian in the Biblical sense.

However, if you are letting the sins of some Church leader stop you from becoming a Christian, then you are making a grave mistake. The only person

without sin is Jesus Christ. All other people can sin. It would be tragic to miss a home in heaven by allowing yourself to be "turned off" by a few Church leaders who fall into sin.

The Bible says we are to turn our eyes upon Jesus and trust only in Him. He alone said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father (in Heaven) except through me"* (John 14:6). If you want a home in Heaven, then you must become a true Bible believing and Christ trusting Christian.

7. They Struggle With Unbelief

Most non Christians in our intellectual society just can't seem to believe in God and Jesus Christ. They are heavily influenced by natural sciences and believe that God, Christ and the Bible are merely religious. The idea of exercising faith in an unseen creator is just unthinkable. But the Bible says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him"* (Hebrews 11:6).

It is easy for people to use these reasons as excuses for why they do not want to be a Christian. The tragedy is that we only have one life to live and we must decide **now** where we will spend eternity. (cp. Matthew 16:26-27)

Remember, he who is "almost persuaded" is almost saved, and he who is almost saved is entirely lost. If you are not a Christian and are using one or more of these excuses, then come to Jesus Christ today. You will experience a changed and better life. You may be able to help others be better Christians, rather than stumbling blocks.

Jesus loves you, he died for your sins; he offers you forgiveness and eternal life. Come to Jesus today, invite him into your life and let him help you work through your doubts and fears.

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ACTS 11:26



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