

Excuses, Excuses

People are born estranged from God, separated. Christ came to reconcile God and man. That is the entire message of the Bible: God rescuing mankind and that through Christ. We can choose to be a child of God, or decide not to. It's a choice. No one is ever born into a relationship with God. Everyone must choose and everyone does choose one way or the other.

God Calls us to Himself. God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. The entire Bible says nothing about almost everything. What it does say, in fact the only thing it talks about, is God and His plan to save humanity. To that end, God has already done everything possible for us to have a relationship with Him, even becoming a man and dying in our place for our sin-filled nature.

We are presently at the end of the 2000-year Age of Grace: a time when everyone everywhere can come to God and find forgiveness for their sins and a new life - FREE!!. What a deal! All anyone need do is accept God; turn to God; decide for God.

Simply: man chose away from God, man must choose back to God.

People do not answer God's call; do not choose God for various reasons. Regardless of the reason, it is an excuse. Making an excuse for not accepting God is rejecting God. The Spirit will not always call you. Eventually, you have made your choice and you will no longer have an opportunity to find God and the life He offers you here and in eternity.

Why do people reject God? There are many reasons but they all come down to one:

"I don't want to".

Here are a few of the common reasons people have for rejecting God. **Further down you will find the explanations and answers.**

1. **Pride**: People believe they are complete, in control, and can handle life on their own. They do not want to believe they have needs, or a weakness, or sin. They are self-assured and have no need of a "magical Jeanie god".
2. **It's a crutch**: They think a life with God in the Spirit of God is for the weak-minded people, simpletons, and they are not. So, they don't need God.
3. **Shame**: a person feels ashamed of their life and does not want to remember, acknowledge, or confront it. They do not go to God because they do not want to address their faults.
4. **Beyond forgiveness**: They do not think God can forgive their past mistakes
5. **Others**: They are afraid of what friends and family will say or think, and how they will react if they "get religion". This is especially true if a spouse is involved.
6. **It's too late**: Too much time has past since Sunday school and they feel the time is long-gone and they must be lost and beyond hope by now.
7. **Delay**: People see a need to come to God, they like the idea, but decide to put it off until later (BTW, They never do find God)

8. **Inconvenient**: Maybe someday / Having too much fun now and do not want to change. Always later...
9. **Ignorance and Fear**: People are not sure what it is all about or how their life might change, so they choose to do nothing.
10. **No Time**: Too busy with school, job, kids, house, vacations, life in general.
11. **I can never be good enough**: God will never except me because of who I am and I can't ever achieve the perfect person I must be.
12. **It's too difficult**: I mean, where do you even start and how long does it take and how much does it cost...
13. **I Can't Be Religious**: there is an aversion to being religious, going to church, being with church people. Usually a flash-back to an earlier time in life when parents forced church attendance and religion on them.
14. **God Doesn't want Me** How can God possibly want me?
15. **Don't know enough**: Once I learn more and understand...maybe.
16. **Which Religion**: Confusion due to all the religions
17. **I would have to attend Church** they believe church attendance is a requirement
18. **Hypocrites**: I know Christians and they are not what I feel Christians should be, and not what I want to be, I am uncomfortable around those people, and not the people I want to be around.
19. **The Bible** No one can understand the Bible and besides, it is an old bunch of writings and can't be trusted or no longer relevant. It's just one of many religious writings no one can prove and none of those writings agree.
20. **I am Already Good Enough**: I am a Good Person. How dare you say I am not good enough!
21. **I've been baptized and confirmed**: I do not need to do anything else
22. **I'm happy just as I am**: I don't need or want to change
23. **I don't want to believe**: people just refuse to believe God
24. **Religion is not relevant**: How can a religion from thousands of years ago have any relevance to the world today? We've moved on and these old writings do not apply any more.
25. **Religion is the problem** They believe all the problems in the world - past and present - are caused by religion and someone's vengeful deity
26. **God is merciful** and He will forgive me and accept me regardless of what I do, so I don't need to do anything.
27. **Jesus loves me** no matter what I do and I will go to Heaven
28. **Too Many Religious Things to Do** Being religious and doing all those religious things is too hard and takes too much time that I don't have.

29. **Giving Money** I'm broke! I can't afford a religion right now. All they want is your money and if I can't give them money they wouldn't want me anyway.

30. **Baptism** It would be too embarrassing!

Answers are printed below

The first thing to understand is that every excuse above is a lie from Satan. Satan does not want you to be a child of God and has gone to great lengths over the centuries to prevent that from happening. He destroyed our relationship with God, confused the Bible, created a culture of sin, complicated your life with many options, excess, and self-gratification. He has flooded the world with porn and sexual debauchery of all kinds, divorce, infidelity, fornication, he has made sin not only acceptable, but the preferred life style.

Satan does not want you to find eternity in Heaven with God. He wants you with him in hell for all eternity. Winning your soul means he can destroy your life and cause you anger, hatred, anguish, and misery. He can use you to hurt others and destroy their lives. Plus, ruining you will hurt his arch enemy, God. Satan feeds on sadness, anger, despair, sorrow, tragedy, hatred, and all the other negative emotions. These emotions are what the devil wants you to give him to satisfy his insatiable appetite.

God wants the exact opposite for your life: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

Here are the answers to the excuses. Pick the one you like the best or best describes you.

1. **Pride**

I don't need anything from anybody. I can manage just fine and religion is not something I need.

- a. Self is the root of all sin. Part of our fallen nature is to think we are king of our life, the captain of our ship; we are in control and self-sufficient; we need nothing from anyone.
- b. Yet, we are alone, powerless and helpless without God and do not realize it. When we accept God, we not only have our own life for the first time, we also have God and the Spirit of God that fills that void you feel in your life. You gain a spiritual sight and understanding you presently lack and you have the real truth, not the world's wisdom.
- c. Man was not meant to live without God. Having God in your life completes you.
- d. Turn from your "self" and find a new life - a better life with God.

2. **It's a Crutch**

Religious people are weak and need something magic to believe in so they don't have to face their life.

- a. A life with God is the most freeing and fulfilling life you can have on earth. You understand the truth; how life works, the Bible, the past, the future. It fills the emptiness that everyone experiences without God.

- b. I guess in a way, it is like magic, but it is real. Go ahead, pinch yourself.

3. Shame

Many people have a life they are not proud of and have tried to forget. They believe coming to a life with God will require a rehashing the past and all the bad and ugly things they would rather not remember.

- a. People may believe they must confess their past in front of a pastor or a congregation. Not true. Your business is between you and God. He is the one that extends salvation, not a church or religion.
- b. God knows you intimately. He already knows everything about you and your past. It is because of what you are that Christ died for your past and draws you to Him for a new future.
- c. God doesn't care what you did or who or what you are, He wants you as you are. He wants you to come to Him that He might give to you a new life in a new spiritual creation. (Remember, the Apostle Paul was a murderer.)

4. I am Beyond Forgiveness

Some believe they are too bad and for too long and too far gone and God can never forgive them.

- a. There is nothing you have done that cannot be forgiven. Christ died for your sins and welcomes you just as you are.
- b. The Apostle Paul puts himself forward as an example for all. He was Saul, a man that chased down and persecuted those Jews who believed Jesus to be the Messiah. He beat them, imprisoned them, killed them. Yet Christ called Paul to the ministry of the Gentiles, changing his life completely. Paul says he found forgiveness because what he did was done in ignorance. Note that Paul did not ask for forgiveness, but Christ chose him. God gave Paul forgiveness.
- c. Any one can admit their faults (sins) and find forgiveness: Justification: just as if you never sinned. It is a new beginning.

5. Others

People will reject God because they feel they will lose their friends, their family won't understand, their spouse and kids will think them weak; piers and work associates will not understand and drift away. It's embarrassing.

- a. A new life is a changed life with new desires and goals. You will be surprised to find your taste in activities and entertainment and friends will change for the better. Your family will respect you and you will be an example to them, and you will change their lives just by being the new person you become.

- b. Instead of appearing weak, they will see you making a stand. They may not understand your stand, but you cannot allow the world around you to keep you from your eternity with God. The fact is that those who do not have God will not understand. They will not understand your new life and how you change. You may decide your old friends are no longer the friends you want to hang with.
- c. You may give others the courage to find their new life in God, people who are holding back for the same reasons. You could be their example and just the thing they need to find eternal life.
- d. From the outside looking in it seems daunting, but the new life is better than the old life, and eternity with God is far better than an eternity without God. The change is for the good. Looking back, you will see clearly this as everyone does. You will be glad you chose God.

6. It's too late

Some feel that time has past them by and it is too late to change, you're too set in your ways, you couldn't change if you wanted to, etc.

- a. It is never too late. Today you can begin a new eternal life with God.
- b. The new life is not something you do on your own, it is through the Spirit of God and God gives you the ability to begin anew.
- c. It is not work at all. It just happens; evolves naturally.
- d. It is an organic change "from the inside out".

7. Delay

Some will agree that turning to God is a good thing, but not now, They want to wait and enjoy life to the fullest before getting all religious.

- a. The problem is that the turning point never comes when you want to give up your life of sin. Meanwhile you become hardened to the Spirits call. Then you think it is too late, you have done too many bad things, etc.
- b. Then you believe one of two lies: why stop? God is a loving God and you will go to Heaven anyway, so, might as well keep sinning, or, why stop? You're too far gone and God won't forgive you now anyway and might as well keep sinning and hope this religion thing is a farce. Neither is true. It's Satan setting the hook and reeling you into Hell. Your body is predisposed to want sin and so your brain keeps telling you what you want to hear to keep doing what you want to do, but know you should not.
- c. Many die tragically, unexpectedly, and have never turned their lives to God. Without God, you will die in your sins and face eternity without God.
- d. A cockpit voice recorder caught the last words of the pilot just before the plane hit the ground and exploded: "No, Wait!" Too late.....

- e. Life goes buy very quickly - it's gone before you know it!
- f. Change now. Choose God. Don't listen to Satan's lies that you can wait. Today is that day! Now is that time! There will never be a better time. There may never be another time.

8. Inconvenient:

To learn all about God, figure out religion, find a church, and become a church-goer, and do all the things involving religion - just doesn't fit into my schedule right now. Maybe when I retire and have more time.

- a. First, a relationship with God has nothing to do with religion or a church. The life with God is private and personal and does not require anything on your part except turning to God and walking with God, and God is with you all the way.
- b. If you truly turn to God and receive His Spirit, God will lead you into the truth and you will grow in your new life.
- c. Second, when you retire, you will have even less time. Trust me on this one.
- d. Today is that day. Don't put it off.

9. Ignorance and Fear

People fear the unknown and tend to put off anything they do not understand.

- a. There is nothing to know. God wants you. If you want God and the life He offers you, that is enough. The rest is an organic growth that happens as you live and grow spiritually day-by-day.
- b. You can not and will not ever know enough until you have God and His Spirit. It's the chicken and the egg: First God, then knowledge.

10. No Time:

Life is way too busy: there doesn't seem to be enough time in the day as it is. Adding something else is not going to work.

- a. Everyone is busy. Satan has seen to that and for this very reason - to keep you from God. However, there is always room and time for God. You are just deceived into thinking there is not enough time.
- b. When you turn to God, you will be amazed how much more time you find.
- c. Finding God – turning to Him - takes seconds. If you sincerely ask God to be in your life and guide and guard your heart and mind, He will respond to you just where you are in your busy life.

- d. You cannot see it now, but your new life will have more God and less of the clutter of everything else. It is not a choice you will ever make: it just happens. You will find more time than you could have ever imagined and with it, peace. Guaranteed!

11. I can never be good enough

A favorite lie of Satan's is that you are beyond hope and you can never change and you can never be good enough, you are not good enough for God, it's too difficult, blah, blah, blah. All lies, nothing true.

You think of the people that go to church and can't imagine them wanting anything to do with you, or you wanting anything to do with them.

- a. First, you do not need to go to church, ever. In fact, in this day and age you are far better off without church and religion. Church and religion is not required or desired, and will hurt you more than help.
- b. Second, God doesn't care about your thoughts of yourself. He knows perfectly well who and what you are. That doesn't matter. God knows what you can be and He wants you just as you are. When you come to God repentant, wanting to be a better person, you are, at that moment, good enough.
- c. If you are sincere in your desire for God, He will give you His Spirit and you will grow in the knowledge of God. Your life will change. That is good enough.
- d. (The Apostle Paul murdered the Jews called Christians before Christ saved him, gave him a ministry to the Gentiles, and made him His ambassador to the world)

12. It's too Difficult

Looking at the whole religion thing is daunting for some because they imagine all sorts of things.

- a. Often, the "daunting" part involves some preconceived notion of religion.
 - i. Religion has nothing to do with it.
 - ii. Forget religion.
 - iii. God is not in religion
 - iv. God wants you
 - v. God wants to be in you!
 - vi. God wants you to be a new spiritual creation and can make that happen
- b. Satan will place doubt in your mind to keep you from finding God. The "daunting" part is simply to scare you away. Don't let that happen. You will not be involved in religion.
- c. It is not daunting at all. It takes 2 seconds "**God, Help Me!**" Isn't that easy?

- i. Where ever you are, tell God you want to be the person He designed you to be
- ii. ask for His help.
- iii. He is ready, willing, and able to lead you to the life that He has for you and, spoiler, it will turn out to be exactly the life you want and need.

13. I Can't Be Religious:

Many times people have an idea of what religion is and they do not want any part of it, whatever "IT" is.

- a. The one thing you absolutely do not want is religion or being religious. The world is full of false religion and the false religious that are going to Hell.
- b. We are in the last minutes of humanity and the church has become apostate and useless. This goes for Christianity and especially Catholicism and Emergent religion. It is far better that you do not attend a false religion. It will do you no good. Just look at the 2.5 billion religious "Christians" who are today lost in their sins and don't even know it. You do not need to be one of them. You do not want to be one of them.
- c. God doesn't want you to be religious. God doesn't care if you go to church.
- d. Nowhere in the Bible does anyone tell the Body of Christ they must go to church.
- e. Everywhere in the Bible God is pleading for people to turn to Him.
- f. God wants you. He desires you to want Him. That is why God created us. That is why God himself came to earth to die in our place that we might be justified in His site and be reconciled to Him, that we can have a relationship with Him.
- g. Religion can be a stumbling block. You do not need a religion about God. You need a relationship with God.
- h. Don't let Satan's bastardized churches and phony-baloney religion stand between you and God, and your eternity with God.

14. God Doesn't want Me

Some feel God does not want anything to do with them, or that God is far off, or God doesn't care.

- a. All untrue.
- b. Satan's lies to you
- c. God most definitely cares about you!
- d. God most definitely wants you!
- e. God is most definitely with you, calling you right now!
- f. Turn to God and you will find Him, and you will find how much He wants you. He has been waiting for you all your life. It's time for you to meet Him.

- g. God took the first step. Take one baby step toward Him. He will catch you. You won't fall,

15. Don't know enough:

People know very little about God and the Bible, even those who have been in religion all their life. What little they do know is certainly wrong given the last 2000 years of false religion. It all seems so mysterious and the Bible is so confusing. How can you get involved in a religion you know nothing about?

- a. First, a promise and a guarantee: you will never know enough. Without God and His Spirit, you simply cannot understand the Bible or God, so says the Bible. Once you are a child of God and have God's Spirit, you will grow and begin to understand everything.
- b. Second, God doesn't care what you know. He is not going to give you a test or a pop quiz. He knows what you know and don't know. He wants you and you alone just as you are.
- c. Knowledge and understanding and wisdom are the result of the relationship with God, never a precursor.

16. Which Religion:

There are so many different religions to choose from. and some people are afraid of making a mistake and going to the wrong church. There are too many religions. How can I possibly know which one to choose, or the right one to choose?

- a. Again with the religion thing!
- b. Satan has made sure there are lots of religions of all types to confuse you.
- c. Let's make it easy: choose none of them!!!!
- d. There are many religions "about God", but only one "relationship with God".
- e. You are choosing God, not a religion or a church. You never need to be involved in religion at all and you are far better off if you don't.
- f. As a child of God, He will lead you and direct your path. As you seek Him, He will reveal Himself to you.
- g. No religion required.

17. I would have to go to Church

If I become religious I would have to go to Church to be a Christian and go to Heaven and I don't have time and I don't want too anyway. So, I'll skip the whole thing.

- a. Attending "Church" is not a requirement to have a relationship with God.

- b. God does not care if you go to Church, He wants a relationship with you.
- c. Forget religion and the church. Turn to God.

18. Hypocrites:

I know to many religious people and they are hypocrites. Religion isn't doing them any good and I don't want anything to do with that kind of religion or religious people.

- a. The vast majority of religious people are not children of God. They may go to church, but they do not have the Spirit of God.
- b. It doesn't matter what someone else does or who they are, God wants you. Don't let the bad "others" stand in your way of "the good you"!
- c. As a child of God, you will grow into the person others should be and are not.
- d. To be a child of God and grow in wisdom and knowledge, you do not need to go to church at all, so, good news, you will completely avoid all the religious hypocrisy.

19. The Bible cant be trusted or understood

No one can understand the Bible and besides, it is an old bunch of writings and can't be trusted or, it is no longer relevant. It's just one of many religious writings and none of those writings agree.

- a. That is exactly what Satan pushes and what He wants people to believe
- b. Everything said above about the Bible is a lie. Don't be duped. Find out for yourself.
- c. Satan is the father of lies, so says the Bible.

No one can understand the Bible, It is just another religious book that has nothing to do with life today. Besides, no one agrees on what the Bible says anyway. I don't want to get involved with it.

- d. The Bible cannot be understood without the Spirit of God. The reason there are so many disagreements about the Bible is that most people have a religion about God, not the relationship with God. They do not have the Spirit of God, or have not sought God so as to receive God's Spirit and the knowledge of the Bible and the knowledge of the truth so as to be saved.
- e. As a child of God with the Spirit of God, you will understand what the Bible says and means.

20. I am Already Good Enough:

I am a good person. I give to charities, I am a good neighbor and I help people who need help, just like the Bible says. I'm doing the best I can. So, if I am doing what the Bible says anyway, I don't need to be "religious".

- a. You're not doing wthey the Bible says! The Bible says turn to God

- b. It's not about doing things and being good enough. Everyone knows good from birth. However, you are born without God and you need God. All God desires, all that is required is you willingly turning to your Creator, God.
- c. Many people think they are good enough and need nothing else. Satan wants people to believe this lie because it will keep them from finding the relationship with God that will save their souls and he wins.
- d. Being "good enough" is not the point. Many people are good, caring, helping, honest, moral citizens, but that does not satisfy God's righteousness. "Everyone's works are as filthy rags in the sight of God", so says the Bible.
- e. Choosing God satisfies God's righteousness – no works required.

21. I've already been baptized and confirmed, so I'm good

Since I have grown up in the Church, been baptized and confirmed, I am already going to Heaven, so I don't need to do anything else. That's what they tell me.

- a. This is a Satanic lie and one of the devil's tricks to keep you from turning to God. Hundreds of millions of "religious people" have lost their eternity on this lie.
- b. Most religions today have no understanding of the Bible. Instead, they promote rituals and traditions that have nothing to do with biblical truth, then proclaim their congregations are going to Heaven based on nothing real.
- c. Unless a person has a relationship with God and possesses the Spirit of God, they are not in the Body of Christ and automatically excluded from a relationship with God and not going to Heaven.
- d. Becoming a child of God and receiving the Spirit of God is easy. Simply ask God to be your God. Tell Him you want to be what He wants you to be and He will do the rest.

22. I'm happy just as I am

I feel great, good health, I'm happy, I have a great family, a wonderful job, plenty of money, a house and car. I don't need anything or want anything to change. Life is good.

- a. It is harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, and for this reason you are content. The Bible says you have it all, yet this night your soul is required of you and you have not received the truth so as to be saved. All that you have today will mean nothing to you in an eternity without God.
- b. You can have the whole world, and still lose your soul. As long as a person is separated from God, regardless of how they feel or how much they have, they are eternally lost.
- c. God wants you. If you want God, he will accept you unconditionally. You will still have your life, the house, etc., but you will have God also. You will also find a new

outlook on life as you grow spiritually. You will still have a lot, but with God, you have everything including eternity with God and that will make all you have worth while.

23. I don't want to believe:

Nothing anyone can say will make me believe anything about religion, God, or the Bible. I don't believe any of it is true, just fairy tales people made up a long time ago and I don't want any part of it.

- a. Some People just refuse to believe God exists. There are many reasons people reject God, most often it is the religion they object to. I don't blame them. I reject the apostate, false religion of our day too.
- b. **It's not about religion!!**
- c. Religion is religion and often has nothing to do with God. Religion is not God or the relationship God wants with you.
- d. Forget religion. Seek God and He will reveal Himself to you.
- e. People who do not want anything to do with the whole God / religion thing usually have other beliefs, or believe in something. Many of these beliefs, like evolution or old earth theory are simply their religion of "anything but God".
- f. The Bible is quite clear that not all will turn to God and these will be lost. In fact, the vast number of humanity past and present will turn away from God.

24. Religion is not relevant to life today

How can an old book from thousands of years ago have any relevance to the world today? It doesn't make sense that it could apply to us. We've moved on.

- a. True: religion is not relevant. Religion is not the issue. You need to separate religion from God.
- b. God is not religion and He is not religious.
- c. Jesus is not religious. Jesus rebuked the religious of His day. Why would you even want to be religious?
- d. The Bible is very relevant to life today. The Bible speaks of man's past, man's life on earth, and man's future.
- e. The Bible bestows understanding and wisdom to those who have God, and these clearly see the relevance.
- f. Satan wants you to believe the "old writings", "old religion", "no relevance" lies. Don't.

25. Religion is the problem, not a solution

Religion has created all the problems we see in the world today and we would all be better off without it.

- a. **Agreed!** Religion is a problem. It has nothing to do with the Bible or the God of the Bible.
- b. Religions do not understand the Bible and the result is something that looks nothing like a relationship with God.
- c. God wants a relationship with you. He does not want you in a false, godless religion that does not understand the truth.
- d. **Choose God. Forget religion. Know the truth.**

26. God is merciful and everyone gets to Heaven

God is a God of love and he will accept me as I am, and everyone else as they are. We all get to Heaven regardless of what we do or believe.

- a. God is a God of justice and righteousness. He is also a God of wrath against all ungodliness and unrighteousness
- b. A popular lie Satan promotes is that God will forgive and accept everyone. This is a satanic lie, not a biblical truth. The devil wants everyone to believe this lie, turn away from God, and lose their eternity.
- c. Only those who choose God will have eternal life with God, and eternal life in Heaven.
- d. The ability to choose God is due to Christ dying in our place.
- e. If you do not choose God, you will not have God. You will have Satan and Hell for eternity.

27. Jesus loves me

No matter what I do, Jesus still loves me.

- a. Religion today takes much of the Bible out of context including Jesus.
- b. Many religions create a fantasy, phony Jesus that is nothing like the Jesus of the Bible.
- c. Jesus came to earth to die in our place, and make it possible for us to have a relationship with God.
- d. The relationship with God is the focus.
- e. Jesus will love you regardless of what you do. He will also be real sad when you are not included in Heaven because you chose not to have a relationship with God.

28. Too Many Religious Things to Do

I don't want another job learning about religion and the Bible and a lot of old stuff that really doesn't matter and not relevant to my life. Reading the Bible and trying to make sense of it can't be easy and it is just too difficult for me. Beside, no one agrees on anything anyway.

- a. The complaint stems from the idea there are requirements and demands associated with being a part of religion. Religion is not a relationship with God.
- b. A relationship with God is not a job and it is not difficult.
- c. Understanding the Bible is difficult because of religion that unnecessarily complicates the Bible, and does not understand the Bible in the first place because they do not have the Spirit of God that is required for understanding the Bible.
- d. If your problem is church, religion, and all that goes with it, just don't do it. Instead, ask God to be your God and begin a relationship with Him. Easy!

29. Religion is too expensive.

All churches and religions want is your money and I'm barely making it as it is. Maybe when I am rich...

- a. First, forget religion and church. The whole thing is unnecessary and not desired!
- b. Second, forget the money. Not necessary. That religion pushes the tithe is an error of their not understanding the Bible. Giving money is not part of a relationship with God.
- c. Religion does not understand the Bible. There is nothing in the Bible about you giving money to anyone. You do not need to give anyone money, ever.
- d. God is not about money. He has all He needs. The only thing that God lacks, and the only thing He really wants is you and you alone.
- e. Do not let Satan's lie, religions lie, or misunderstanding about money stand in the way of your relationship with God and eternity in Heaven.
- f. God wants a relationship with you. He doesn't need the money.

30. Baptism is a problem for me

I am not a kid and I don't want to go up in front of a church and get dunked with a lot people looking at me. It's embarrassing! They say the Bible says I must and it is required if I want to be a Christian, or join a church, or go to heaven.

- a. First, eternity in Heaven has nothing to do with water baptism. The only requirement for Heaven is a relationship with God and the indwelling Spirit God gives to anyone and everyone who sincerely turns their life to Him. This is a spiritual baptism that replaced water baptism.
- b. Second, you want to be a child of God in the Body of Christ in a relationship with God. You do not want to be a Christian in a false religion about God that requires

water baptism. Baptism is certainly not the only thing this church does not understand. You would be wasting your time and never learn anything.

- c. Third, forget the church. You do not want to attend the religions of this day as they will lead you astray and prevent your spiritual growth regardless of what they say or promise.
- d. Religion will keep you from an eternity with God. You're far better off without the religion of our day as it can only keep you from the relationship you want with God and that God wants with you.
- e. Religion will confuse the Bible for you. It will not give you understanding.
- f. If the church you attend says baptism is required, they do not understand the Bible. Baptism is not required for the child of God, or for you to have a relationship with God.
- g. If the church requires baptism, they will tell you a lot of other stuff that will be wrong as well, guaranteed. Don't waste your time with that religion, or any religion.
- h. The Bible says nothing about the Body of Christ believers being water baptized. God sent the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles with the message he wants us to hear and that message does not include water baptism. It replaces water baptism with the baptism of the Spirit of God. This indwelling Spirit replaces all the first century miracles, signs and wonders and tongue-speak that some phony religions follow. The abiding Spirit of God also replaces "church" as each child of God is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- i.and before you ask, having the Spirit of God does not mean you must babble, making funny noises, raising your hands, jumping around or anything like that. Churches that practice such things are false, godless, apostate religions in a category of their own. They are non-biblical religions and should be avoided.
- j. Today, when a person turns to God, he/she is baptized in the Spirit of God, meaning that when you accept God, God gives you his Spirit to dwell in you. This is the power that changes your life and gives you wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and reveals to you God's Word. The Spirit is the one thing ALL religions lack including the Christian religion. Water baptism of any kind can not and will not do anything for you.
- k. Water baptism was for a sign in the four Jewish Gospels until the spiritual baptism arrived with the Apostle Paul. The four Gospels are for the Jews. For us, the four Jewish Gospels provide information about God's plan through Jesus - His life and ministry. The four Gospels do not say anything to the Gentiles about doctrine or practices we must follow. Same with the Old Testament.
- l. God couldn't care less if you get wet or not. What He desires is you turning your heart to Him, sincerely desiring to have Him as your God and to walk with Him.
- m. Best practice: In the privacy of your home, choose God. Tell Him what you see wrong with your life and what you want to change. Ask Him to forgive you. Tell Him you want to change and be what He wants you to be. Ask for His help. God WILL answer. Guaranteed!