

Church of God Ministries Headquartered in Anderson, IN.

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How Can a Person Join the Church of God ?

1. If you are *not* a Christian (that is, not saved, not born anew, not a disciple of Jesus Christ), then you will want to confess your sins in prayer, ask God to forgive your sinful way of living, and invite Jesus Christ to come into your life as Savior and Lord. You may be able to do this alone, but many persons have found that the assistance of a thoughtful and mature Christian is helpful at this time (Matthew 11:28). When you accept Jesus Christ as Savior, you are born into the church. You are a new creation in Christ (John 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Through the cross you have become a member.

Becoming a Christian

Would you like to receive this gift of salvation right now?

To all who receive him, who believe in his name, he gave power to become children of God. (John 1:12)
All you need to do is ask him, and he will forgive you of your sins and will enter your life.

You receive Christ by inviting him into your life. It is as simple as praying the following prayer...

Dear Lord,

Thank you for hearing me and making me aware of my need. I know I have sinned and done wrong in your sight. Forgive me of my sins and give me strength to turn from them.

I now confess you as my Lord and Savior. Help me to make you master of my life. Guide me in your ways so that I might be your devoted follower.

Amen.

What should I do next?

- Let your friends and family know of your decision.
- Worship regularly with a local church.
- Be baptized as a witness and affirmation.

Baptism by immersion is a first step for the new believer. The term *baptism* means to immerse. Immersion of believers is the only form of baptism that is indicated in the New Testament. Through baptism, the new believer witnesses to a new spiritual dimension in his or her life. Baptism is also a witness to the church that the new believer is a part of its fellowship and work and to family and friends that he or she is now an active participant in the Christian community (Mark 1; Matthew 28; Acts 2:38).

The Lord's Supper, often called Communion, is an affirmation of oneness in Christ.

Church of God congregations frequently share the elements of the Lord's Supper. Many have Communion on the first Sunday of each month (including World Communion Sunday), on New Year's Eve, and on Maundy Thursday. The bread and the cup are symbolic of the grace experienced in the life of the believer.

Do you believe persons have to be baptized in the Church of God in order to go to heaven?

No. Baptism is a first step in the life of the Christian convert. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as Savior, it is expected that the person will take the first step of following Jesus Christ in baptism (Mark 1); however, believers who have been baptized in other church groups will find their baptisms honored.