

**Step 5. Grow in Christ toward holiness.** You already have eternal life right now: Jesus Christ Himself said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47; 1 John 5:10-13).

Now, with God's help, work out your own salvation (Phil. 2:12-13).

Just as you began trusting Christ as Lord, so continue in Him (Col. 2:6-7).

Do not bring dishonor on your baptism and communion with Christ by living in lust (1 Cor. 10:1-13).

God calls every believer to holiness (Rom. 1:7; 1 Thes. 4:3-8; 1 Pet. 1:14-16).

The divine nature, in the person of Jesus Christ, has entered your life (2 Pet. 1:4),

and through the Holy Spirit, is transforming your life (Rom. 8:9-18 and 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:17-18).

God expects you to become holy (2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14).

In Christ and in the saints, He has left us examples to follow (1 Pet. 2:21-23; Phil. 2:3-11 and 3:17; 1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Thes. 3:7-9; Heb. 13:7). Imitate them!

5a. Every believer is called to holiness:  Yes /  No

5b. The Holy Spirit transforms our lives:  Yes /  No

5c. God left us examples for imitation in Christ and the saints:  
 Yes /  No

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8

*they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*"

People who gather together for fellowship, communion, group prayer, the teaching of the Apostles are the Church, the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23).

Her goal is the unity of the faith, growth toward the full stature of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

There you will find fellowship (1 John 1:3) and will prepare for mutual service and witnessing to other people about who Jesus Christ is.

Go to church often – *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..."* (Heb. 10:24-25).

Obey the leaders: they watch out for your souls and must give an account for you (Heb. 13:17).

2a. We gather together for fellowship, communion, group prayer and instruction:  Yes /  No

2b. Christ left the apostles in order to give us correct teaching in the faith:  Yes /  No

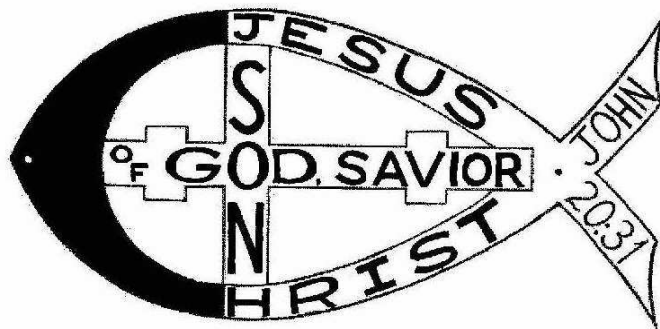
2c. We can disregard our leaders if we want:  Yes /  No

**Step 3. Always act in love.** The Lord gave us a new commandment: *"Love one another..."* (John 13:34-35).

All of the other commandments are contained in this commandment (Mat. 22:34-40).

Love for your neighbor is a trait of life in the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:13-16 and 22-25).

6



The sign of the fish is probably the most ancient symbol of the Christian confession of faith. In Greek, the word **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (fish) is an acrostic, in which each Greek letter stands for a word:

### "Jesus Christ – God's Son, Savior"

...as the Apostle John wrote: *"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life (Salvation) in His name"* – John 20:31.

In this way, when persecuted Christians in the first century met and drew a fish in the sand, they immediately recognized one another.

Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to bear their cross, follow Him and confess Him: *"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels'"* – Luke 9: 23-26.

1

## GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

1. Do you believe in the existence of God? (John 4:23-24; Acts 17:24-27; Heb. 11:6)  Yes /  No

2. Do you believe that Jesus is God in the flesh? (Matt. 1:18-23; John 1:1 and 14; John 14:8-9)  Yes /  No

3. Do you believe that God loves you, and you must also love? (John 3:16; Luke 10:25-37)  Yes /  No

4. Do you believe that God is perfect and holy, and that He expects this of you? (1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 John 3:2-3; 1 Thes. 4:3-8 and 5:23)  Yes /  No

5. Do you believe that you are a sinner and therefore without Christ you are separated from God? (Rom. 3:10 and 23; 6:23)  Yes /  No

6. Do you believe that Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead for your sins? (John 1:29; Acts 3:18-19; Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3-4)  Yes /  No

7. In 1 John 1:3-10, the Apostle John wrote that if you want to have fellowship (communion) with God, you must not hide your sins, but confess them. Are you ready to confess your sins? (Luke 18:10-14; James 5:16; 1 Cor. 10:12-17)?  Yes /  No

8. In Romans 10:9-10 it is written: *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Will you prepare yourself to confess Christ as Lord

3

But faith must always be combined with justice and love: *"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. ...And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us the commandment"* – 1 John 3:10 and 23.

With the passage of time, the "fish" symbol of faith was added to, and by the end of the fourth century the Nicene (A.D. 325) and Constantinople (A.D. 381) Councils composed the following...

### Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed

**I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; Light of Light, Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He arose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, Whose Kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets;**

**And I believe in One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

2

before other people? (Luke 9:23-26; 11:33 and 12:8-9)  Yes /  No

9. In the letter to the Ephesians 2:8-10 it says: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* Do you believe that you can't save your soul by doing good works, but that God wants to save you for good works? (James 2:17-20; Gal. 5:6; Titus 2:11-14)  Yes /  No

10. Please read this prayer. If it answers the desire of your heart, use it to pray to God:

*"Lord Jesus Christ, / Son of the living God, / have mercy on me, a sinner! / Now I understand, / that You died in my place on the cross / and rose from the dead, / having taken upon Yourself my sins. / I now completely trust / and hope in You, Son of God, / as my Savior and Lord. / I ask You to forgive me of my sins / and help me to follow You daily. / I pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

(Be sure you understand that pronouncing this prayer does not save you, but only complete trust in Jesus Christ.) Do you want to repeat this prayer and receive Jesus Christ into your life as Savior and Lord?  Yes /  No

Now begin following Christ...

4

The most important gift of the Spirit is love (1 Cor. 12:31 - 13:13). You can recognize true faith by good works done in a spirit of love (James 2:14-16; 1 John 3:16-18).

Whoever does not love, does not know God (1 John 4:7-9 and 19-21).

And genuine love turns away from evil and sticks to the good, but loves even one's enemy (Rom. 12:9-20; Mat. 5:43-48).

3a. Love includes all the other commandments:  Yes /  No

3b. The most important gift of the Spirit is love:  Yes /  No

3c. Genuine love turns away from evil:  Yes /  No

**Step 4. Confess your faith in Christ to other people.** Jesus Christ commanded those who want to follow Him to do this (Luke 9:23-26).

A good follower is not ashamed of his leader. The Apostle Paul, a follower of Christ, said: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."* (Rom. 1:16).

Pray with believers for the power of the Holy Spirit for witnessing (Acts 1:8 and 14; 4:29-31; 1 John 4:13-15; 1 Cor. 12:3).

Christ teaches us to do this in Matthew 10:32-33 — *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven..."*

Tell your friends that Christ is the only way to God (John 14:6; 1 John 5:12; Acts 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 2:4-6).

4a. We need to confess Christ:  Yes /  No

4b. The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness:  Yes /  No

4c. Christ is the only way to God:  Yes /  No

7

## STEPS OF FOLLOWING CHRIST

**Step 1. Follow Jesus' example and receive water baptism.** (Mat. 3:13-17).

Baptism shows that you have now become a follower of Jesus Christ: *"But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized..."* (Acts 8:12-17).

Water baptism is not merely a "likeness," it is really being united with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:4-5).

You no longer live for yourself (Gal. 2:20).

Like circumcision in the Old Testament, baptism makes you a member of God's people (Col. 2:11-13), and is the official seal of your believing (Rom. 4:9-12; Eph. 1:13-14),

...for the forgiveness of sins and receiving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 10:43-48; 19:1-6).

1a. Baptism is not merely a "likeness," it is really being united with Christ:  Yes /  No

1b. The Holy Spirit then lives in your life:  Yes /  No

1c. You may continue to live however you want:  Yes /  No

**Step 2. Join the visible Church,** as in Acts 2:41-42 and 47: *"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And*

5