

THE SECRET OF



THE FISH SYMBOL

The cross is the most common symbol for Christianity, but it may not have been the 1st symbol used by Christians. Ancient records show that

the sign of the fish



was used by the early

Christians. The Greek word for fish is **ἰχθύς** (ik-thus).

Christians have used this word and symbol because the letters form a secret code.

ἰ = ἰησοῦς = Jesus

χ = χριστός = Christ

θ = θεοῦ = God's

υ = υἱός = Son

ς = σωτήρ = Savior

THE BIG QUESTION

What this symbol is saying is that because He loves you, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, wants to be your savior so that in the hour of your death you will go to heaven with Him.

By the way...

If you were to die

right now

would you go to heaven?

THE PROBLEM

The thing that separates you from God and will keep you from heaven is your sin. The Bible says:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
(Romans 3:23)

"For the wages of sin is death."
(Romans 6:23)

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God."
(Isaiah 59:2)



ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD

INADEQUATE BRIDGES

Most people think that they can bridge the gap between them and God by doing good deeds, being religious, joining religious organizations, giving to the poor and etc. But the Bible says that we cannot because salvation is a GIFT.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not because of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9)



While it is true that good works are important they have nothing to do with obtaining salvation. They are a **result** or **fruit** of salvation.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

(Ephesians 2:10)

We are Saved:

By Grace

Through Faith

FOR Good Works



THE GIFT

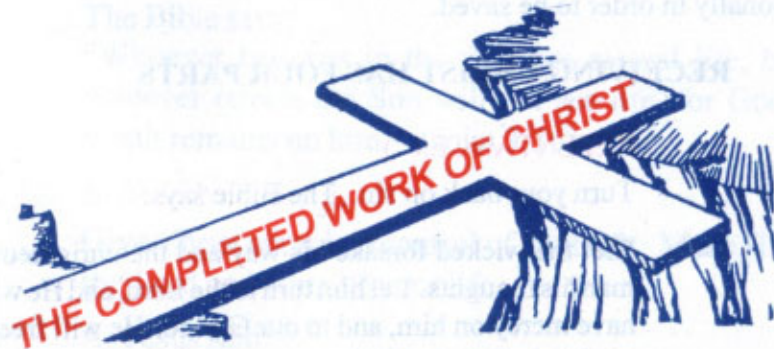
Since our good deeds can never save us, God has given us another way.

"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." (1 Peter 3:18)

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)



RECEIVING GOD'S GIFT

Christ died for all men, but each of us must receive Him personally in order to be saved.

RECEIVING CHRIST HAS FOUR PARTS

1. REPENTANCE ()

Turn your back on sin. The Bible says:

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God for He will freely pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)

2. FAITH or TRUST ()

Trust Him, and Him only, without doubt.

The Bible says:

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." (John 3:36)

3. SURRENDER ()

Give Christ complete control of your life. Make Him the Lord and King of your life.

As Jesus said:

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)

4. **ASK FOR SALVATION** ()

Ask Him to forgive your sins and to save you.

The Bible says:

"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near." (Isaiah 55:6)

"Every one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

If you want to receive Christ, put a check mark by each of the 4 steps to show that you are fulfilling each step. Next tell Jesus that you are accepting Him now.

Prayer of Commitment:

"Dear God, I've been living my life my own way. Now, I want to live it your way. I need you and I am now willing for you to take control of my life. I receive your Son Jesus Christ, as my personal Savior and Lord. I believe He died for my sins and has risen from the dead. I surrender myself to Him as Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, and sit on the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be."

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RESULTS OF YOUR PERSONAL TRUST

If you have accepted Him:

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD

"But to all who received Him, who believe in His name, He gave power to become children of God."

(John 1:12)

YOU CAN BE SURE OF SALVATION

"And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know** that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:11-13)

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Since you are now a child of God, your Heavenly Father wants you to:

1. Witness...tell others what Christ has done for you.

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven."

(Matthew 10:32-33)

2. Study the Bible.

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." (1 Peter 2:2)

Memorize the following verses:

1 John 5:11-13 (p.13)

Ephesians 2:8-10 (pp.6-7)

John 3:16 (p.8)

Romans 5:8 (p.8)

1 Peter 3:18 (p.8)

3. Pray daily...talk to God as you would a friend.

Tell God your problems

Ask Him to help you

Thank Him for His help

4. Seek companion ship with other children of God.

"A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

(John 13:34-35)

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