

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CHRISTIAN

A LIFE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

CALLING

PARTICIPATION

COMMUNITY

TRANSFORMATION

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

RECONCILIATION

RECOGNITION
&
REPENTANCE

What does it actually mean to be a Christian?

This guide grew out of many years of supporting people on their journey with God. It covers seven areas: recognition and repentance, reconciliation, relationship with God, community, transformation, participation and calling. The focus is not on rules or a religious facade, but on a relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Brief explanations, questions and Bible passages will help you to see where you are right now, to hear what God is saying and to move forward.

About Europe for Jesus

After more than ten years of preparation, Europe for Jesus was founded in 2024 out of a desire for a Europe transformed by the Spirit of God. Transformation begins when people encounter God personally, let the Holy Spirit guide and transform them and live with Jesus. Through transformed people, God's love and power can work in relationships, communities and regions - and transform Europe from within.

Find out more about our history and vision at
<https://www.e4j.org/en/about/>



EUROPE FOR JESUS E.V.

Why This Booklet?

You may be asking yourself questions like:

- What is the purpose of my life?
- Is there more than what I can see?
- If God exists – what does that mean for me?

This booklet helps you understand the path to God and your journey with Him. It explores key areas of Christian life– from repentance to calling. At its heart, being a Christian is not about a system or fixed rules, but about a personal relationship with God.

Wherever you are on your journey, God meets you personally. The intentionally brief content of this booklet is designed to offer guidance, inspire reflection and encourage you to take concrete next steps.

Each QR code takes you to a more detailed article on our website, where you'll also find book recommendations.

How to Use This Booklet

- Read it at your own pace – or work through it together with others
- Reflect on the questions, note down your own and discuss them with experienced Christians
- Talk to God – even if it feels unfamiliar
- Read the Bible and look for specific passages on topics that are on your mind
- Act on what you realise or what God is showing you

The Heart of Your Christian Life

God invites you into a relationship with Him. He does not want people merely to appear Christian. He wants your relationship with Him to matter to you and become part of your identity.

He knows you and loves you. If you entrust yourself to Him, He wants to guide your life through the Holy Spirit. Make time for God and be open to Him meeting you and speaking to you.

Learn to listen to God and do what He shows you.



RECOGNITION & REPENTANCE

Recognition means: You realise that you have not always lived up to God's standard.

Repentance means: You admit this, turn to God and allow Him to help you do better.



In Brief

Many people consider themselves to be "basically good". Yet God's standard is to love Him and others wholeheartedly. Where love is lacking, guilt and wrongdoing arise. God is just and does not ignore guilt. Guilt leads to separation from Him. God wants people to recognise this, turn back to Him and, with His help, learn to love. Where there is separation, a new beginning is needed.



Moving Forward

- Where in my life do I see that I am not living according to God's standard?
- What can I honestly admit to God now – and what am I still struggling with?
- In what areas do I want to turn to God and ask Him for help?



Bible

- Matthew 22:36-40
- Romans 3:23
- Isaiah 59:2
- Proverbs 28:13

Further
Information





RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation means: Jesus paid the price for your guilt on the cross. Through this, God removes the separation between you and Him – by grace and out of love, not because you deserve it.



In Brief

No one can undo the wrongs they have committed or overcome their separation from God on their own. That is why God invites people to a new beginning in relationship with Him: whoever trusts in Jesus and accepts His gift is reconciled to God. The Holy Spirit comes into their life, transforms them from the inside out, accompanies them and assures them that they belong to God.



Moving Forward

- Do I receive God's forgiveness as a gift and entrust my life to Jesus?
- Do I trust that God has forgiven me completely through Jesus?
- How can I tell that my relationship with God is real?



Bible

- 2 Corinthians 5:19-21
- Romans 8:16
- Romans 10:9-10
- Ephesians 2:8-9

Further
Information





RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Relationship with God means: God lives within you through the Holy Spirit and speaks to you. You entrust your life to Him and allow Him to guide you.



In Brief

God desires a relationship with each person. Through the Holy Spirit, He initiates, enables and sustains it without forcing anyone. It is the core of being a Christian and shapes identity, character and way of life. It grows through spending time with God, listening to Him and living with Him, in natural and supernatural ways. This strengthens trust in God and transforms Christians – not rules or personal effort.



Moving Forward

- Do I choose to set aside time for God?
- Where am I living out of my relationship with God – and where out of habit and my own ideas?
- How do I experience God guiding me or speaking to me?



Bible

- John 15:4–5
- John 10:27
- John 14:15–26
- Galatians 4:6

Further
Information





COMMUNITY

Community means: You do not walk your path with God alone, but together with other Christians. Together, you show others what Jesus is like.



In Brief

God unites Christians worldwide in one community, lived out in local groups. There is encouragement, correction and growth. Christians help each other to become visibly more like Jesus. Despite mistakes and difficulties, community remains central to God's work. There, people can forgive, receive and give love, without having to condone or tolerate everything.



Moving Forward

- Am I a committed member of a Christian community and do I contribute to it?
- Do I allow others to give me honest feedback?
- Where can I strengthen others and help them to grow?



Bible

- Psalm 133:1
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Ephesians 4:15-16
- Colossians 3:12-15

Further
Information





TRANSFORMATION

Transformation means: God changes your life, behaviour and values from within, so that you become more like Jesus.



In Brief

Transformation does not come from human effort, but through the Holy Spirit. He renews inner attitudes in line with the Bible and shapes the way Christians live. The aim is not just to appear Christian on the outside, but for the whole person to be transformed in thoughts, intentions and actions. Jesus is the model for a life lived according to God's will.



Moving Forward

- Where is God changing my thinking or behaviour right now?
- Do I rely on my own strength or on God's promises and supernatural work?
- What change have I recognised as necessary- and do I want to put it into practice?



Bible

- Romans 12:2
- Galatians 5:16-23
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Matthew 11:29

Further
Information





PARTICIPATION

Participation means: God works through you - out of your relationship with Him, in love, and through His supernatural power.



In Brief

Christians are called to be there for others. This does not come from duty or activism, but out of their relationship with God. He gives opportunities, gifts and strength. Through Christians, God meets people in their needs. The aim is to listen to God, to work with Him and let people experience His love and supernatural power.



Moving Forward

- Do I act out of my relationship with God or out of obligation?
- Where do I experience God at work - in natural ways, through my spiritual gifts or directly?
- Who can I be there for next?



Bible

- John 15:5
- Ephesians 2:10
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
- Galatians 5:13

Further
Information





CALLING

Calling means: God has a good purpose for your life and has designed you for it. As you follow Him, He leads you step by step into your calling.



In Brief

People are here by God's will – not by accident. Through Jesus, Christians live in relationship with God as His children in freedom. But freedom is not a free pass: actions shape their path. God gives Christians a mission, opportunities and gifts, and uses their experiences. Those who listen to Him and act in trust will discover and live their calling without letting suffering or circumstances hold them back.



Moving Forward

- How do my spiritual gifts, personality traits and experiences fit with my calling?
- What direction has God already shown me for my calling?
- What next step is God showing me – and do I want to take it?



Bible

- Psalm 139:13-16
- John 15:16
- 2 Timothy 1:9
- Psalm 32:8

Further
Information



SUMMARY

SEVEN AREAS OF LIFE WITH GOD



RECOGNITION & REPENTANCE

I acknowledge how I have wronged people and God and turn back to Him.



RECONCILIATION

Jesus carries the consequences of my guilt – God gives me a new beginning by grace.



RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Through the Holy Spirit, I live in a personal relationship with God.
→ It shapes my identity and everything else grows from it.



COMMUNITY

I do not walk my path alone, but together with other Christians.



TRANSFORMATION

I allow God to make me more like Jesus from the inside out.



PARTICIPATION

I follow God's guidance – He can work through me in natural and supernatural ways.



CALLING

I discover what God has made me for and follow Him step by step.



Your Compass

Relationship with God is the heart and compass of your Christian life. Listen to God and do what He says.



Moving Forward

- What stood out or challenged me while reading?
- What could God show me through this?
- What do I want to act on with Him now?



ABOUT EUROPE FOR JESUS

A Europe Transformed by the Spirit of God

Europe for Jesus e.V. is a Christian ministry serving across Europe. We want to put Jesus at the centre and help people encounter God personally, deepen their relationship with Him and experience the work of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is a Europe in which God's love and power transform people, communities and regions.

With God's help, we aim to prepare, reach, equip and revive Europe. We support individuals, groups, congregations, churches and Christian ministries in three ways:

- Through God's Task Force, we provide quick spiritual help in urgent situations.
- At our own events, we create space for prayer, teaching, healing, deliverance and personal encounters with God.
- When invited, we serve at church services, conferences, training sessions and retreats. We work alongside individuals, leaders and teams, helping them discover and use their gifts and live their calling.

Our ministry is supported by voluntary donations. We are very grateful for your prayers and financial support. Our desire is for people to know about God, experience Him, get to know Him and shape their lives together with Him.

Learn More & Contact

You can find upcoming events, further information, contact details and ways to donate on our website <https://www.e4j.org/en/>



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