

The ABCDs of the Gospel

A: Admit we all have sinned & need forgiveness.

B: Believe that Jesus is God, He died for our sins, & rose again to give us eternal life and new purpose.

C: Confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

D: Dwell with Him in daily, life-transforming relationship

A — Admit

... we all have sinned & need forgiveness.

Key Scriptures

- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)
- “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6)
- “You were dead in your trespasses and sins.” (Ephesians 2:1)

B — Believe

... that Jesus is God, He died for our sins, & rose again to give us eternal life and new purpose.

Key Scriptures

- Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:31)
- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- “But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

C — Confess

...Confess Jesus Christ as Lord

Confession is a decisive response that declares:

* repentance for sin

* belief in:

* Jesus sacrifice and resurrection

* Jesus' Lordship: You have given Him authority to lead your life's decisions.

* with words

* And with a surrendered life

* The Greek word can mean to “covenant”. Not just mental assent to but to bind one's self to the truth you believe in.

Key Scriptures

- “...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9–10)
- “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)
- “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46)

D — Dwell

...with Jesus in a daily, life-transforming relationship, by His word (the Bible) and Prayer (Talking to Him, and listening for Him).

Key Scriptures

- “And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3)
- “Abide in Me, and I in you.” (John 15:4)
- Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. (Col. 3:10)

The Gospel Message:

The Bible says...

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

And...

- Sin pays off with death... (Romans 6:23a)

But here's the good news...

- ...God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23b)

Because...

- John 3:16
16 ...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.

God loved people so much

That he came to earth

as a man named Jesus

And even though he never did anything wrong

He died to forgive all our wrongdoings

And He rose from the dead

To give us new life here

And eternal life forever in Heaven

And bring us into Relationship with Him...

Because...

- John 17:3 says:
...this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

And As you get to know Him...

Here's what happens...

- Colossians 3:10
Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

He will transform you...

And give you new purpose...

- Ephesians 2:10
For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19
Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

Important Clarifications

- Ephesians 2: 8-9

...8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

 - **Salvation is about believing in Jesus, not about being "good"**
- Titus 2:13-14

13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

 - **The deity of Christ is stated very plainly here**

Other Helpful Passages:

- Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)
- Acts 17:22-29

22 So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, 23 for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. 24 "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. 26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. 27 "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. 28 For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' 29 And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

 - **God is near us even before we know Him.**
 - **He wants us to know Him**
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

 - **A concise but complete picture of the gospel message is stated here.**
 - **The defense of the gospel as more than myth or personal belief is stated here based on eyewitness account of the martyrs. Someone might die for a mistaken but genuinely held belief, but no one would die to protect their own false testimony.**

