
John 17:3

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”



1 John 1:4

“We write this to make our joy complete.”

Life

Sometimes we think that becoming a Christian would mean the end of all the good things we enjoy.

But what does John tell us?

- Those who receive God’s gift of eternal life find great peace and joy.
- And there is great joy in inviting others into this same relationship with God.

This offer is still going out today. Anyone, whoever we are, can accept the invitation.

We might think that this all sounds too good to be true. Is this joy possible? Can ordinary people be in a real and living relationship with their perfect Creator? Could life after death be more than wishful thinking?

But what if it is true? Wherever you live and work, there will be people today who say that they have received this life through Jesus and know God for themselves.

Why not connect with people in your area who can help you find out more about Jesus? He may well be closer than you think...

findlifethatlasts.com

Find life that lasts.



Life

It’s closer than you think.

1 John 1:1

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.”

Life

What we’re reading here was written by a man called John more than 1,900 years ago.

John introduces us to someone he calls **the Word of life**.

- He was there ‘from the beginning’. In other words, the Word of life existed before time itself.
- This is someone John has also seen, heard and touched. He has known Him in person.

Interested?

John has more to say about this Word of life.

1 John 1:2

“The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.”

Life

What does John tell us about the Word of life?

- He appeared, He came to earth. The one who is eternal had an address, a job and friends. He knew hunger, grief and joy, just like all of us.
- But He also had a great mission. He came to offer eternal life.

We all know life is short; we’re doing well if we reach our 80s. But John is telling us about the possibility of eternal life, life that starts now and never ends.

But what does eternal life actually mean?

1 John 1:3

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

Life

How does John describe this eternal life that Jesus offers?

- He calls it fellowship - in other words, a real and personal friendship, with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ

How is that possible?

Deep down we probably know that we don’t deserve to be friends with God. None of us are the people we ought to be.

But Jesus, the Word of life, came to earth, died on the cross and was raised from the dead. He did this to forgive all the ways we’ve rejected God and hurt other people, if we turn to Him. This is what makes the offer of relationship with God possible.

Elsewhere, the same John wrote this:

“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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 3:16-17

to point you to him because he loves you, wants the best for you and longs for a personal relationship with you.

We all fall short of God's perfect but unattainable standards all the time. Anything from the tiniest act of unkindness through to mass rape and genocide stops us from being perfect like God. Including abortion. God's perfection includes his justice, which is white-hot. As a result there must be hell to pay.

The hope

Yet his perfection also includes his love and kindness and mercy, which is why he sent his Son into the world. Jesus came to sacrifice himself for us on the cross. He came to pay for our moral failure, in our place, that we might not have to. We broke God's law, but Jesus paid the penalty. And God then raised Jesus back to life to be the loving, protecting, powerful King for all who come to him.

By coming to this God in prayer to say (and be!) sorry for our faults, and by trusting in Jesus' death, we can have all of our failures written off forever. We can have permanent cleansing. We can start an intimate friendship with God as our loving, accepting Father, no longer only a terrifyingly righteous Judge. We can have eternal life, in which all of our bruises and brokenness will be healed forever.

Please, come to God with this prayer right now. Then check out the resources below to help you on your new adventure. You have an incredible future ahead of you. God bless!

Useful websites:

<http://www.lifeessentials.org.uk/>
<https://www.christianityexplored.org/>

Useful Books:

Mere Christianity,
C.S. Lewis, 9780007461219

Newness of Life,
John Eddison, 9781906173128

I would like to know more about Jesus Christ.

- Please send me a free DVD about the life of Jesus.
- Please send me a free copy of John's Gospel (a book of the Bible that describes Jesus' life.)
- Please send me a free booklet on how to become a Christian.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Hope!



Life can hurt

Let's be honest. Our lives can be bruised and broken by such things as frustrated plans, destroyed dreams, financial hardship, depression, anxiety, exhaustion, illness, discrimination (especially against women), bullying, abuse, rape – the list goes on. Maybe you're struggling to be a survivor of some of that right now.

If you're holding this booklet, it's possible that you're either pregnant or have been in the past. And if so, your pregnancy (or ex-pregnancy) might have been the context for this tragic truth that life can hurt.

If you've taken the decision to terminate your pregnancy (or are thinking about it), then you've probably also had the

extra burden, on top of everything else, of people being 'on your case'. You may have experienced people condemning you, friends not being there for you, family pressurising you or healthcare professionals not being honest about all the options available to you.

The truth

Well, the truth is that you are unbelievably precious. You are valuable. You have dignity. You have the freedom to make your own choices. And, to be frank, you are a miracle! Because regardless of what you choose (or chose) to do with your pregnancy, the wonders of modern science show it to be a pretty amazing phenomenon.

In 2005, National Geographic made an award-winning 90-minute documentary called 'In the womb'. It used cutting-edge 4D ultrasound imagery to show what happens from the moment a sperm connects with an egg.

By 21 days, there's a heartbeat. By 40 days, the baby's brainwaves can be measured. By 6 weeks, she responds to movement and by 8 weeks she can suck her thumb. By 12 weeks, her features include fingerprints, fingernails, eyelids, ears, toes, all essential organs, and blood cells being produced in her liver! And by 20 weeks, she has her adult taste buds, can swim, kick, turn, do somersaults, and recognise her mother's voice. She can even dream, as we know from her rapid eye movement during sleep!

So when did this little person become a person? To quote the Professor of Genetics at the University of Descartes in Paris, Dr Jérôme LeJeune, 'After fertilisation has taken place, a new human has come into being. This is no longer a matter of taste or opinion. Every individual has a very neat beginning, at conception.' Or as Professor Micheline Mathews-Roth of the Harvard University Medical School states, '*It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception.*'

The problem

Which makes the abortion you had, or are thinking of, a bit tricky.

It explains that twinge of guilt you feel over ending the little person inside you. Some might have forcefully insisted to you over and over that you're only getting rid of some 'tissue', yet that twinge of guilt won't go away. Not quite – at least not for good. That twinge isn't 'nothing'. It's your conscience, hardwired into you as a moral compass. It was put there by your Creator. He put it in you to give you an insight into what he's like – wonderfully but scarily perfect, unlike any of us! But he also put it there

