



**Let's
Talk
About
Faith**

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The God-Sized Architect*

Hey Friend

Hi, I'm Yolanda.

I'm a mom, a Jesus-lover, and someone who laughs at herself way too often. I created the God-Sized Architect ministry because I'm passionate about having real, honest conversations about faith—the kind that feel more like coffee with a friend than a sermon.

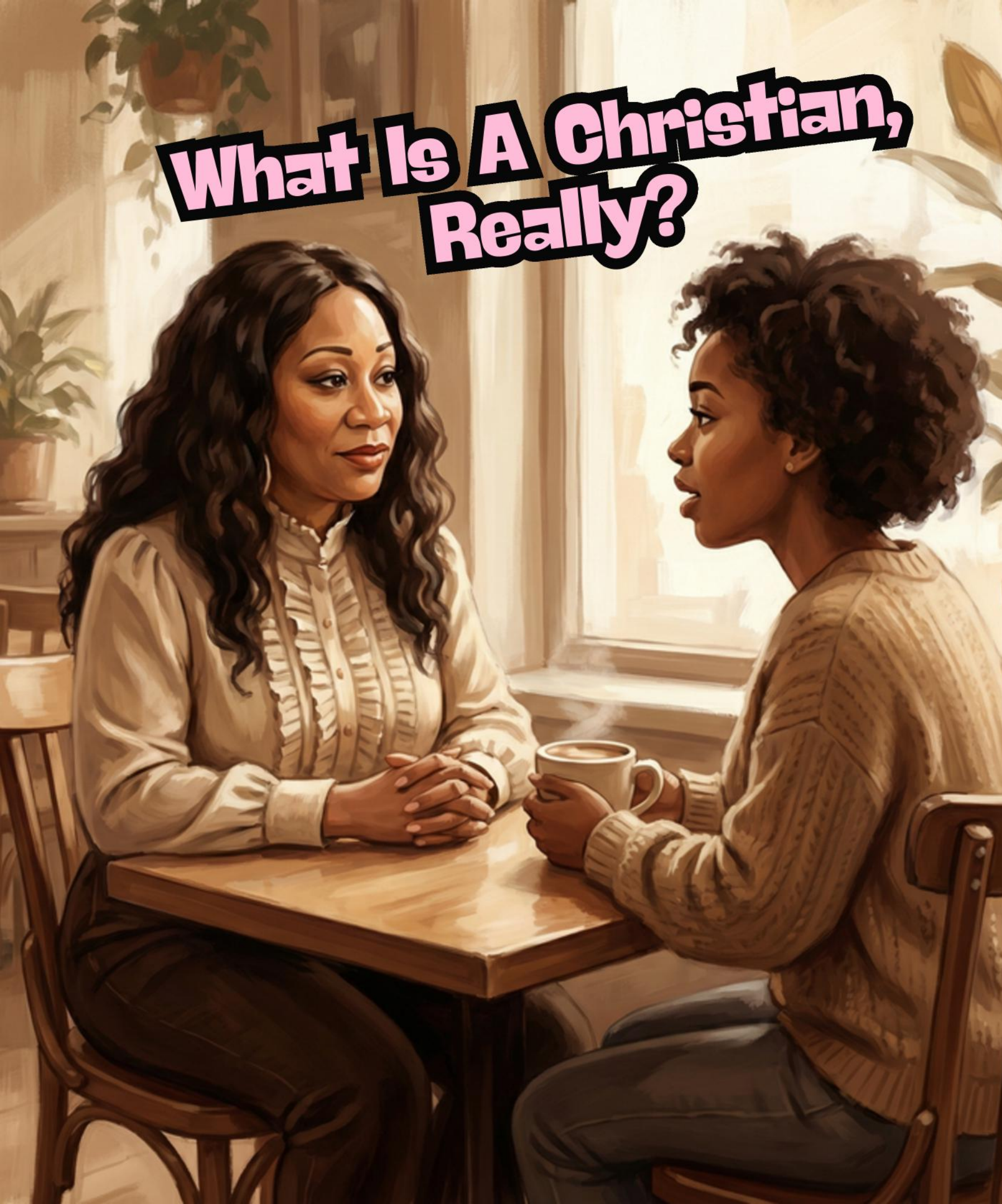
Maybe you're curious. Maybe someone you love shared this with you. Maybe you've been carrying questions around and finally decided to look for answers.

Whatever brought you here—welcome. This is your space. No judgment, no pressure, just honest talk about the most important relationship you could ever have.

So grab your favorite drink, get comfortable, and let's dive in.



What Is A Christian, Really?



You've probably heard this word your whole life, right? Maybe you think of your grandma at church, or that girl posting Bible verses, or people with lots of opinions about how everyone should live.

But here's the truth: a Christian is simply someone who follows Jesus Christ. That's it. The word means "Christ-follower" or "one who belongs to Christ."

And no—this doesn't mean giving up your music, wearing certain clothes, or becoming some perfect person who never messes up. (That person doesn't exist anyway.)

Being a Christian means believing Jesus is God's Son who came to earth as a real person, and trusting that what he did changes everything for you. It's letting that truth reshape your life from the inside out.

The Bible says, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). Children of God. Not because you earned it, but because you received him.



So What Is Salvation?

"Salvation" sounds super religious, I know. Let's break it down.

Salvation means being saved. But from what?

Here's the truth: every single person has messed up. We've hurt people we love, made selfish choices, said things we regret. The Bible calls this "sin"—really, it's just all the ways we fall short of who we were created to be.

Scripture says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). All of us.

These mess-ups create a gap between us and God. You know that feeling when you lie to your best friend and there's suddenly this distance? That's what happens between us and God.

But here's where it gets beautiful.

Salvation is God's way of closing that gap. Jesus—who never messed up once—took all our failures, all our worst moments, everything we're ashamed of, and carried the punishment when he died on the cross.

He did what we could never do for ourselves. The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

When you accept this gift (and yes, it's absolutely a gift—nothing you earn), you get a completely fresh start. Total forgiveness. A genuine, restored relationship with God.

Imagine owing a debt you could never pay—then someone who loves you steps in and says, "I've got this. It's paid. You're free."

That's what Jesus did for you.

"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy" (Titus 3:5).

That's grace, friend. Pure, undeserved, lavish grace.





Why Does It Matter, Today?

Salvation isn't just "fire insurance" for when you die. It changes your life right now.

Today, you get:

- Deep peace knowing you're completely forgiven—no more guilt and shame
- Real purpose because you finally understand why you're here
- Power to become who you want to be through God's Spirit working in you

"Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1).

Real peace. In your anxiety. In the chaos. When everything feels overwhelming.

Forever, you get: Eternity with God instead of separation from him

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

If you knew your friend was about to walk off a cliff, you'd yell, right? You'd grab her arm.

That's why Christians share this.

Why Read The Bible?



Real talk: the Bible can seem intimidating. It's thick, the language is confusing, and maybe people have used it to judge or hurt you. That's happened to me too—more times than I can count. If that's been your experience, I'm truly sorry. I know how much that hurts.

But I don't want that pain to keep you from what the Bible actually is: God's way of talking to us. It's God's love letter, his story, his heart laid out so we can know him better.

It's not a rulebook. It's not a weapon.

Here's why it matters:

It's how we know God. Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

It gives us wisdom for everything—relationships, decisions, heartbreak, purpose, identity.

It encourages us when life gets hard. "Scripture gives us hope" (Romans 15:4).

You don't have to understand everything. People who've read it for 50 years (like me!) are still discovering new layers.

Start with the parts that speak to you. The Bible isn't a test you pass—it's a conversation with God.

This is huge. This is where so many of us get lost.

I'm going to be honest: **religion has hurt a lot of people.** It's hurt me—multiple times, in multiple ways, by multiple people. If that's your story, I'm genuinely sorry. That's not what God wanted.

Religion feels like an exhausting checklist. Go to church (because you have to). Pray (but make it sound good). Be good enough (but you never quite are). It's performance. It's anxiety. It's trying to earn God's approval.

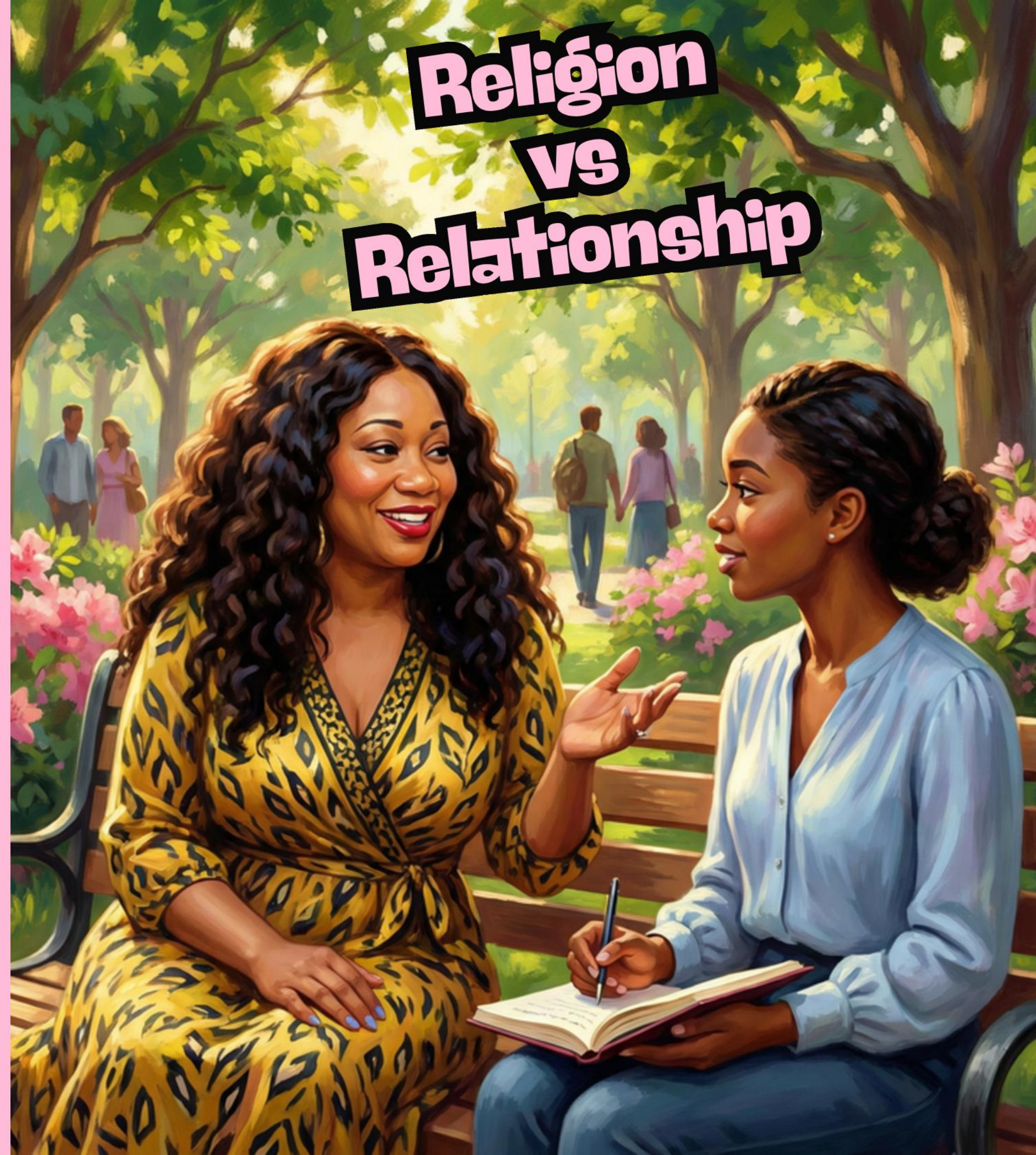
Relationship is completely different.

It's knowing God personally—like your best friend, someone who truly sees you and loves you anyway. You're not earning anything because God already loves you completely, right now, exactly as you are.

"By grace you have been saved through faith—not by works" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God wants your real, honest, messy, beautiful heart.
Not your perfect performance

Religion vs Relationship



How Jesus Live

Jesus called out religious people who looked perfect outside but were empty inside. He said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

And who did Jesus spend time with? Not the religious elite. He defended a woman caught in adultery. He let a "sinner" anoint his feet with perfume and tears. He ate with tax collectors. He touched the sick and outcasts—people no one else would touch.

That tells you everything about what matters to him. Think about it: a friend who only hangs out because her mom forces her? That's religion. A friend who lights up when she sees you and chooses to be there? That's relationship. And that's what God wants with you.





How Do I Become A Christian?

I love that you're asking this. And it's way simpler than you think.

No perfect formula. No magic words. No test.

It's about what's in your heart.

Believe Jesus is God's Son and that he died and came back to life—for you, personally.

Admit you've messed up and you need forgiveness. There's no shame in this—it's actually the most freeing thing you'll do.

Trust Jesus to save you instead of trying to save yourself.

Decide to follow him. Let him lead your life.

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).



A Prayer To Start

If you don't have the words, here's a prayer I crafted for you:

"God, I know I've messed up. I can't fix it on my own. I believe Jesus is your Son, and that he died for me and came back to life. I want to follow you. Please forgive me. Change me from the inside out. Help me live for you. I'm yours."

The exact words don't matter. What matters is that your heart means it.

If you prayed that and meant it? You're part of God's family now. Welcome, daughter. You just made the most important decision of your life. Take a moment to let that sink in.

An illustration of two women sitting on a couch in a living room, engaged in conversation. The woman on the left has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a yellow patterned top. The woman on the right has short, curly dark hair and is wearing a light blue top. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background features a window with sheer curtains and several potted plants.

What Happens NOW?

So you've taken that step—incredible! But what now?

Here's the truth: Salvation isn't the finish line. It's the starting line. It's the beginning of the best days of your life. Think about being born. A baby doesn't just get born and stop. They grow, learn, fall, get back up, change. That's what happens spiritually.

You'll want to know more. That curiosity? That's your spirit waking up.

Prayer becomes natural. It stops being formal and becomes like texting your best friend. You'll talk to God about everything.

Start with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)—Jesus' framework for how to pray. Use it as a guide until you find your rhythm.



Keep Growing!

You'll crave community. We're not meant to do this alone. Find your people—a church, a small group, Christian friends who can walk with you.

You'll notice changes. Your priorities shift. Things that mattered don't anymore. Things you never cared about suddenly matter. Your heart is transforming.

You'll still have hard days, but now you have total forgiveness, God's Spirit giving you power to change, and grace to try again.

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God started something in you, and he's going to finish it. He's not giving up on you. Ever.

Can I tell you something? **Doubts don't disqualify you.**

Questions don't make you a "bad" Christian. They mean you're engaging instead of blindly accepting. That's healthy.

Even people in the Bible had doubts. Thomas wouldn't believe Jesus came back unless he could touch the wounds. Jesus didn't shame him—he showed up and let Thomas see (John 20:24-29).

God can handle your questions. He's not threatened by your doubts.

Be honest with him. Talk to trusted Christians—a pastor, mentor, friends. Read, listen, dig into Scripture.

A father in the Bible cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). That honesty? Jesus honored it.

Your doubts and questions? Bring them. Wrestling with hard questions often leads to the deepest faith.



**Do I Have To
Be Perfect?**



Girl. No. Not even close.

If Christianity were about being perfect, we'd all be disqualified. The whole point is that Jesus is perfect, and we trust in his perfection.

You'll mess up after you're saved. You'll struggle with anxiety, comparison, anger, pride. You'll scroll too long, gossip, judge others, wonder if this is real.

The difference? You have complete forgiveness that's already yours. You have the Holy Spirit giving you power to change. You're transforming bit by bit.

This is a process. A journey.

Think about learning any new skill—you practice, improve, mess up, try again. Your relationship with God is the same.

God's grace covers you. Every day. Every mess-up.

You're loved as you are. You're being transformed. Both are true.



What's The Purpose?

Here's something beautiful: the purpose of being a Christian is to live like Christ did. But that's not just about being "good." It's bigger.

When you live like Jesus—loving, serving, forgiving—you become a living example for people who don't know God yet. You give them a glimpse of who He is.

Jesus said, "Go make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20). Not in a pushy way—but by living in a way that makes people curious about the God you love.

God loves you madly, and he loves everyone else the same way. Your sister, your coworker, that girl sitting alone—they matter just as much.

Sometimes you might be the only Jesus someone sees. That sounds like pressure, but here's the thing—it's not about being perfect. It's about being real.

Even as you're healing, learning, growing—you're a testimony to God's transforming power.

When someone sees you mess up and extend yourself grace, sees you struggle but keep trusting, watches you change little by little—they realize, "If God can meet her where she is, maybe he can meet me too."

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

You're not manufacturing love—you're overflowing with what you've received.

Your life matters. Your transformation matters. Not just for you, but for everyone who needs to see that this Jesus thing is real, that it works, that they can have it too.

Let's make it count—not from pressure, but from gratitude.



Why Christians Share?



You might wonder why Christians are so passionate about their faith. Kinda like me, right now- LOL!

Here's the heart: **If you found the cure for something devastating, wouldn't you tell everyone you love?**

That's how we feel about Jesus. Not about being pushy or judgmental (we're not better than anyone). It's about knowing something so good, so life-changing, we can't help but share.

The best Christians share from genuine love, not judgment. They share because they care.

If someone made you feel condemned or judged—that's not Jesus. He welcomed everyone. He was radically inclusive and loving.

That's the spirit we're supposed to have. Sometimes we get it right. Sometimes we mess up. But the heart should always be love.



Listen, wherever you are right now—just curious, actively searching, doubting everything, or following Jesus but feeling lost—you're exactly where you need to be.

There's no "right" stage. No "should be further along." Just you, and God, and this moment.

This isn't about joining a club or following rules. It's about knowing the God who made you, who sees you entirely, who loves you wildly.

If you're ready to take a step, take it. His arms are wide open.

If you need more time, take it. God isn't going anywhere. He's patient. He's been pursuing you your whole life because you matter to him more than you know.

"The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish" (2 Peter 3:9).

An illustration of four women of diverse backgrounds and ages cooking together in a warm, well-lit kitchen. They are smiling and engaged in conversation. The kitchen features wooden cabinets, a stainless steel range hood, and several pots and pans on the stove. The overall atmosphere is one of joy and community.

**Come As
You Are..**

You don't have to have your life together before you come to God.
You don't have to fix yourself first.

You don't have to clean up or get rid of your questions or become someone different.

Come exactly as you are—with your doubts, your mess, your questions, your fears, your past, your wounds, all of it—and let him do the transforming.

That's his job, not yours.

This is an invitation to the most important, most beautiful, most life-changing relationship you'll ever have.

What do you say?

You're seen. You're loved. You're invited. Always.



**Let's Go Deeper
Start Here!**

I highly encourage you to review these verses. Look them up, read them in context, and let God speak to you:



- John 1:12 • Matthew 6:9-13 • Romans 3:23 •
Romans 6:23
- Titus 3:5 • Romans 5:1 • John 14:6 • Matthew 4:4
- Psalm 119:105 • Romans 15:4 • 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Ephesians 2:8-9 • Romans 4:5 • Matthew 15:8
- Romans 10:9 • Acts 4:12 • Acts 16:31 • 2
Corinthians 5:17
- Philippians 1:6 • John 20:24-29 • Mark 9:24 • 2
Peter 3:9
- Matthew 28:19-20 • 1 John 4:19 • John 13:35

The God-Sized Architect



By Yolanda Oliver

**Ready to explore what's next?
I created "OK, Now What?" to walk
alongside you as you navigate this
new journey. It's filled with
suggestions, ideas, and
encouragement—nothing you have
to do, just helpful options to
consider.**

**You get to choose your path. I'm
just here to help.**