

# 1 Why do we study Christianity?

THAT SEEMS A SIMPLE QUESTION, SO IT should be given a simple answer. We study any subject in order to learn more about it, to know more, to have more information. But no one is interested in information that is useless, non-helpful. We want information that is useful, helpful — information that will help us to grow, to mature, to develop. We want information that will make our lives better, more real, more meaningful.

Christianity is more than just any subject. It is a faith, a way of life, a value system. So if Christianity is going to improve our lives, it is not enough to know about it. Mere information is not enough. To be a Christian it is not enough to know about Christ, to know what he did, what he said, what he thought. A Christian has to follow Christ, live Christ, live his message, his teaching, his preaching. When people asked Christ, "Where do you live?", he answered, "Come and see" (Jn. 1:39). But he also added, "come, follow me".

To follow Christ is more than just knowing about him, more than knowing him even. To follow Christ is to live him, to love him. It means imitating him, following his example, living as he lived, loving as he loved, caring for others, sharing with others, forgiving, understanding. It means having faith, hope and love in our hearts. And the basic reason we do all that is because we believe that Christ is God — God who became a human being and shared our life, so that we can share his life and his love with others.

As you continue your study of Christianity, may you become more like Christ. May you become richer in faith, more courageous in hope, and deeper in love. May the Lord give you a great love for the world and a great gentleness. May he help you to persevere in the fullness of humanity.

More than that, we study Christianity in order to follow Christ, to live him, love him, and to stand for everything he stood for.

We study Christianity to know more about it. We study it in the hope that it will give us a direction, depth and meaning to our lives.



We study Christianity so that we can respond to God, to share his life and love with others.

