

## Dr. Minter's Story



The only thing noteworthy about my hometown is corn flakes. Battle Creek, Michigan, where I grew up, is home to the Kellogg's Company. If you've ever had a bowl of corn flakes, chances are it was made in my hometown.

But beyond that Battle Creek is nothing out of the ordinary, and my upbringing was nothing out of the ordinary. Our family was a good, moral family; I learned right from wrong early on. We went to church every Sunday, and even though I was always in some kind of church youth group, it was boring, and I never seemed to get much out of it.

Because our church didn't teach the Bible, I came into high school with some real misunderstandings. I thought that Jesus Christ was merely a good human teacher, that the Bible was merely a good book, and that Christians, well--they were just good moral people--decent Americans.

But like many teenagers, I had a tough time in high school. Even though I studied very hard and made excellent grades,

I felt like a nobody. So I tried to prop up my self-esteem through music. I was a trumpet player, so I tried to fill the emptiness inside by pouring myself into perfecting my playing skills.

My sophomore year I met another trumpet player named Keith. He was the best in the band, and I was so jealous of his music skills, his self-confidence, and his popularity I couldn't stand it.

Keith had told me he was a Christian. I thought I was a Christian, too, simply because I was born in this country. And I thought that all Americans were Christians. When Keith invited me to a Sunday evening Bible study, I decided to go simply out of curiosity. I wanted to hang out with him.

When I got there, I found out that these Christians were different. They had something I didn't. They were filled with care for each other, where I was eaten up inside with jealousy and competitiveness. They had a peace in life, where I was filled with turmoil. They were able to relate to God personally, but I had no idea who he was.

As we studied the Bible over those weeks, I learned some things. I found out that the Bible wasn't simply a good book; it was like a personal letter from God to me. And, it was true! I had always been aware that I had broken God's moral laws, but now I discovered the severe consequences of that: spiritual death. I was angry when I discovered that. Why hadn't my church told me? I could have died and ended up in hell never knowing the danger I was in!

Most importantly, I found out that Jesus Christ wasn't simply another great moral teacher; he was the Savior of the world. I knew he had died, but I never knew what for. But then I found out that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for the spiritual consequences of my sins. He had died in my place—so I would have to experience God's holy wrath on sin personally.

And then I discovered that Christians weren't simply good moral people, they were individuals who had made a decision for themselves to trust Christ to forgive their sins and give them eternal life.



I was hurting so badly inside. My self-esteem had just bottomed out. A girl I adored had just dumped me—for a star athlete. There was tremendous anger and turmoil in my home. I wanted--I needed--that relationship with God, that sense of purpose, that peace and contentedness that I saw in the other Christians. So after some weeks I finally trusted Christ for myself in October of 1976.

It's been almost 40 years since that time. I'd like to tell you that since that time, everything in my life has been great, but that wouldn't be honest. There have been many struggles and hard times. But the difference is this: Now I have a sense of purpose and meaning to my life: I want to please Christ, my Creator and my Savior. And even more importantly, based on what the Bible promises, I have an assurance concerning my future: I know that I am headed for an eternity in heaven with Christ.

This puts the problems and traumas of this life into a whole different perspective. Life can hurt pretty badly, but in the "big picture," it is very short. Many of my clients have experienced how abruptly this life can be over for someone about whom they cared deeply.

I encourage you to consider the claims of Jesus Christ. If you're interested, or have questions, I can show you how to investigate Jesus' claims for yourself.