



RSVP

AN INVITATION



**R**SV.P is perhaps the first French phrase we learn. Do you remember invitations to birthday parties which all ended with 'RSVP'? It is the abbreviation of the French phrase *répondez s'il vous plaît*, which simply means 'please reply'.

In other words, the invitation says 'please don't ignore me!' It demands a response. It would be rude, after all, to ignore the invitation of a friend who seeks your company and desires to provide a time of celebration at his or her expense.

But let's examine a more profound invitation. It's an invitation from Jesus and he has sent it out to everyone – you included – and he demands a response.

### WHY DOES HE DEMAND A RESPONSE?

Jesus demands a response because of the claims he made, the things he did and the controversy that surrounded him during his time on earth. For example:

- Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and the only access to God.
- Jesus forgave sins.
- Jesus always made time for the common man. He aided and sought the company of the poor, the sick, the rejected, the despised and the outcasts.
- Jesus performed miracles, healing the sick, making the blind see and even bringing the dead back to life.
- Although a Jew, and a highly influential spiritual and moral leader, Jesus received hostility from the Jewish religious hierarchy and was ultimately executed at their command.
- During His execution – one of the most brutal ever devised by man – Jesus prayed that the Father God would forgive those responsible for his suffering.
- Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb three days after the

- crucifixion. Perhaps his most controversial action, Jesus was seen by more than 500 people in the 40 days following his resurrection and before his ascension.

Essentially, Jesus turned religion on its head. It was no longer about how many times a day you prayed, or for how long. It was not about how much money you donated. It was not about building an image of self-righteousness and leading an outwardly (seemingly) perfect life. It is now about the heart, it is about love. It is about forgiveness and it is about recognising our broken state; that we have all done wrong. It is about seeing that despite this God still loves us and desires a relationship, a response, from us, and that this is why he sent Jesus to die for us.

In His own words, Jesus summed up His purpose – and Christianity – in one sentence: “For God so loved the world, that he sent his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes on him may not perish, but have life eternal” (John 3:16).

## HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Do you believe Jesus was who he said he was? Do you believe that he died and was raised again? At the very least, does his story of selfless love and compassion, miracles, brutal murder and resurrection; this invitation for eternal salvation and a relationship with God, not warrant further investigation?

Jesus so earnestly desires your RSVP that he says “Behold, I stand at the door and am knocking; if any one hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

*For more about Jesus and his invitation please visit  
[www.jesuschangeslives.co.uk](http://www.jesuschangeslives.co.uk)*

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