

What is a Christian

The Authentic Jesus VI

If we are going to be authentic believers, we need to know what one is. Christianity is not based on:

- Church attendance
- Being good
- Being called a Christian
- Joining a group

Christianity comes from:

- An unwavering belief in Jesus Christ as Lord (unto death)
- A willingness to walk in the truth no matter what the consequences are

The phrase “Christian” is only mentioned three times in the bible and was not a term of endearment from the people in the world. The disciples of Christ were tagged Christians as a form of mocking and persecution, and they embraced the term as a badge of honor.

The first time Christian is mentioned in the word of God is in the book of Acts chapter 11.

KJV Acts 11:25-27

Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

*And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. **And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.***

And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

The second time the word “Christian” is mentioned in the bible is when Paul was speaking to Festus and Agrippa in Acts 26.

KJV Acts 26:24-28

And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

The third time “Christian” is mentioned in the word of God is in 1 Peter 4 where the Apostle Peter is talking about Christian suffering.

KJV 1 Peter 4:16-19

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

- If you are a Christian you will be persecuted, mocked, made fun of, buffeted, hated, warred against by principalities and powers.
- We are not only to endure it but to endure it happily.

Signs of Christianity:

KJV Acts 11:19-26

Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Disciples:

- Disciplined follower
- One who follows the life and teaching of another

Christian literally means:

- Christ follower
- People that have a personal relationship with the Lord
- People that don't have to tell anyone they are Christians, their actions separate them from the world which calls them Christians to the Glory of God.
- The disciples were called Christians because they walked, talked, and acted a whole lot like Jesus.

You might be a Christian if:

1. Jesus is Lord of your life

Acts 11:19-20

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And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

- Jesus is not an addition to your life
- Christians are people who have made Jesus Lord of their life and Preach Him as Lord every where they go.
- Jesus is your life:

KJV John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

KJV Acts 17:23-28

For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

***For in him we live, and move, and have our being;** as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

2. You understand and have the grace of God working in your life (verse 23)

*Who, when he came, and had seen **the grace of God**, was glad, and exhorted them all*

- Grace is what separates Christianity from every pagan religion on the planet. Every religion requires works to get to God but in Christianity we are saved by grace through faith.

KJV Acts 15:11

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

KJV Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

KJV Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

KJV 2 Timothy 1:9

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

- Jesus entered humanity to save us by grace and through our faith in the work He performed
- We are the only people on earth that do not tell men to change their lives to come to God but have a message that God came to you in the form of the Lord Jesus Christ, and if you accept Him and call upon His name He will change you for His glory.
- We must not only understand the grace of God but defend it and protect the truth of it so as to point men to God and not unto themselves or other gods that are no gods.
- Christ came to this earth to perform that which we were unable to do which is keep the Law and lead a perfect righteous life; and then went to the cross to pay for what we have done, break the law and lead unrighteous lives.
- All then we have to do is accept God's work His way (not ours)
- Being a Christian is about accepting His way instead of demanding ours.

3. You have purpose of heart and cleave to the Lord (Verse 23)

*Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, **that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.***

Christians know:

- we are not an accident
- We have a purpose

- We have a relationship with the True and Living God
- We Love God and cleave to the Lord.
- The meaning of life comes through relationship with God not the collection of things in this earth.

If you pursue the things of this world instead of God you will be pierced through with many sorrows and will walk down a road of death:

KJV 1 Timothy 6:9-10

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

KJV Matthew 19:24

And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

People that are in Love are a mess over the person they are in love with. If we Love the Lord and cleave to Him with all our hearts then he is on our minds all the time and we have a hard time focusing on the things of this world.

4. You are a good man: Christians are good people (Verse 24)

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

- We don't do works to get saved but good works come out of the relationship we have with him through faith:

KJV Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

KJV John 14:12

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, **the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.***

KJV James 2:24-26

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- Our works come out of relationship with Him and glorify the Lord and display his power, greatness, and love in our lives so that others might see Him working in and through us.
- Good works come out of a heart that is perfect towards the Lord; a heart of flesh that is soft for God not hard to sin.

KJV Ezekiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

We are to have **unfeigned** faith and love

- (unwavering, sincere, without dissimulation or hypocrisy).

KJV 1 Timothy 1:5

*Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of **faith unfeigned**:*

KJV 2 Timothy 1:5

*When I call to remembrance **the unfeigned faith** that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

KJV 1 Peter 1:22

*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto **unfeigned love of the brethren**, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

- God wants us to be the real deal even when we fall short.

KJV Acts 10:38

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about **doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil**; for God was with him.*

5. The hand of the Lord is upon you and you are full of the Holy Ghost: Christians are led by the Spirit of God (Verses 21 and 24)

And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

KJV Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

- The most profound signature that you are filled with the Spirit is that you are led supernaturally in this life by the Spirit of God.
- With maturity in the kingdom comes the ability to test, and discern what is God, and what is carnal, or evil in nature.
- Christians live in a world beyond their five physical senses, being led by spiritual things through a plurality of witnesses.
- God is a Spirit and cannot be found with the five physical senses alone:

KJV John 4:23

*But the hour cometh, and now is, **when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:** for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

KJV 2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight

6. You are full of faith (Verse 24)

*For he was a good man, and **full of the Holy Ghost and of faith:** and much people was added unto the Lord.*

- Christians are Believers not Un-Believers:

We believe in many things of the kingdom that we can't see:

- Angels
- God himself
- Miracles
- Laying hands on the sick and watching them recover
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We please God with our faith:

KJV Hebrews 11:6

***But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

- Faith makes us God pleasers
- Faith is the door into the grace of God

7. You like to assemble with others and be taught the things of God (Verse 26):

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

- Christians love to be taught in the word of God
- They love to teach in the word of God
- Christians love to be discipled and to disciple others in the word of God
- Christians love the word of God and the people of God and assemble together and provoke one another to good works

KJV Hebrews 10:23-24

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

KJV Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

KJV John 8:31-32

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;***

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- Christians know that **God's word is liberty** and freedom and want more of it to make them free from bondage.

KJV James 1:25

*But whoso looketh into **the perfect law of liberty**, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

KJV 2 Corinthians 3:17

*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.***

KJV Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

KJV Galatians 5:13

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

KJV James 2:12

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

If we are authentic Christians we emulate the very life of Christ: We are married to the Lord, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh:

KJV Ephesians 5:30-32

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.