

Wearing The Name "Christian"

1 Peter 4:16

All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted

Wearing The Name "Christian"

*"... but if anyone suffers as a **Christian**, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name."
(1 Peter 4:16)*

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The HONOR of wearing the name.

*"To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them **an everlasting name** which will not be cut off." **(Isaiah 56:5)***

*"The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and **you will be called by a new name** Which the mouth of the Lord will designate." **(Isaiah 62:2)***

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The HONOR of wearing the name.

*"So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered **worthy to suffer shame for His name.**" **(Acts 5:41)***

*"After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, 'Brethren, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles **a people for His name.**'" **(Acts 15:13-14)***

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- We wear the name of His Son.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." **(Galatians 2:20)***

*"... and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, **as Christ Jesus Himself.**" **(Galatians 4:14)***

*"But may it never be that I would boast, except in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." **(Galatians 6:14)***

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The REWARD of wearing the name.

*"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and **all these things** will be added to you." **(Matthew 6:33)***

*"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" **(Matthew 7:11)***

*"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." **(James 1:17)***

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The REWARD of wearing the name.
 - Spiritual blessings.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ ..."* (Ephesians 1:3)

*"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, **He hears him.**"* (John 9:31) (cf. Proverbs 28:9)

*"**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you."* (Matthew 7:7)

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The REWARD of wearing the name.
 - Blessings In Christ

■ Blessed are the dead in Christ
"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.'" (Revelation 14:13)

■ Redemption/Forgiveness.
"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." (Ephesians 1:7)

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The REWARD of wearing the name.
 - Blessings In Christ

- Eternal Life.

"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." (1 John 5:11)

- Salvation.

"For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory." (2 Timothy 2:10)

- No Condemnation.

"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The REWARD of wearing the name.
 - Blessings In Christ

- New Creature.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- God's Grace.

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith **into this grace in which we stand**; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."* (Romans 5:1-2)

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- The REWARD of wearing the name.
 - The Promise of Heaven.

"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2-3)

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Matthew 25:34)

Wearing The Name "Christian" means:

- The RESPONSIBILITY of wearing the name.

- Disciple.

*"And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the **disciples** were first called **Christians** in Antioch."* (Acts 11:26b)

- Persuaded.

*"Agrippa replied to Paul, 'In a short time you will **persuade** me to become a **Christian.**'"* (Acts 26:28)

Wearing The Name "Christian" means:

- The RESPONSIBILITY of wearing the name.

- Suffer / Glorify.

"... but if anyone **suffers as a Christian**, he is not to be ashamed, but is to **glorify God** in this name."
(1 Peter 4:16)

- Life of Duty.

"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)

Wearing The Name "Christian" means:

- The RESPONSIBILITY of wearing the name.

- Humble obedience.

"Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'? But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'? He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"
(Luke 17:7-10)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- Strong and weak.

"Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves." (Romans 15:1)

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." (Ephesians 6:10)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- Spiritual and carnal.

"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:1)

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- Hot and cold.

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."
(Revelation 3:15-16)

- Close and at a distance.

"But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the officers to see the outcome." (Matthew 26:58)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- Stable and unstable.

"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."
(Ephesians 4:14-16)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

■ Difference between being saved or lost!

"But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

(Hebrews 10:32-36)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

■ Difference between being saved or lost!

"For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,' and, 'A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.'" (2 Peter 2:20-22)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

■ How can I know the difference?

■ Conviction or convenience?

"But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, 'Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.'" (Acts 24:24-25)

"... but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence ..."

(1 Peter 3:15) (See Daniel 3:14-30)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

■ How can I know the difference?

■ Separated from the world?

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:15-17)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

■ How can I know the difference?

■ Must "deny self ... and follow Me."

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'" (Matthew 16:24)

"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." (John 12:26)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

■ How can I know the difference?

■ Must develop the mind of a servant.

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men." (Philippians 2:5-7)

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- How can I know the difference?
 - Must develop the mind of a servant.

"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?" (Romans 6:16)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- How can I know the difference?
 - Devoted to the church?

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34)

"... and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- How can I know the difference?
 - Appreciate strong preaching?

"So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)

"As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore." (John 6:66)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- How can I know the difference?
 - Growing?

"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you." (2 Peter 1:5-11)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- How can I know the difference?
 - Growing?

*"You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:17-18)*

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- How can I know the difference?
 - Trying to save the lost?

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." (John 15:1-8)

Difference Between Being A Christian And Wearing The Name

- How can I know the difference?
 - Trying to save the lost?

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls."
(Proverbs 11:30)

Three Facts Regarding The Wearing Of The Name "Christian"

- 1. Wear it voluntarily.

*"So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, **rejoicing** that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name."*

(Acts 5:41)

*"I will most **gladly** spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?"*

(2 Corinthians 12:15)

*"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual service** of worship."* **(Romans 12:1)**

Three Facts Regarding The Wearing Of The Name "Christian"

- 2. Wear it always.

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, **always** abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."*

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

*"For this reason **you also must be ready**; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."* **(Matthew 24:44)**

*"And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and **take up his cross daily** and follow Me.'" **(Luke 9:23)***

Three Facts Regarding The Wearing Of The Name "Christian"

- 3. Wear it intelligently.

- Influence.

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father** who is in heaven."* **(Matthew 5:16)**

- Judgment.

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that **each one may be recompensed** for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."* **(2 Corinthians 5:10)**

Wearing The Name "Christian"

- Are we Christians or merely wearing the name? **(cf. Luke 6:46)**
- Not all who wear the name will go to heaven! **(cf. Matthew 7:21)**
- Don't just wear the name, be the person that the name suggests, "Christ In You." **(cf. Galatians 2:20)**

How To Become A Christian

Hear the word of God

(James 1:21; Romans 10:17)

Believe the gospel message

(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ

(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness

(Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38)

Remain Obedient

(Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 3:12)