

Who Is A Christian?

Acts 11:19-26

Who Is A Christian?

- **Bible definitions**
 - John 8:31 - "... truly my **disciples**"
 - Acts 11:26 - "... the **disciples** were first called Christians"
- **Apply these principles to ourselves**
 - I Corinthians 10:12 - "... take heed lest he fall"
 - II Corinthians 13:5 - "Examine yourselves ... Test yourselves"

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You believe something about Jesus

- John 12:42-43 - "many even of the authorities believed in him"
- James 2:19 - "Even the demons believe"
- He was historical, a profound teacher, His teachings contributed to the good of humanity, etc. Many different views.
- But the Bible says,
 - Ephesians 4:5-6 - "one Lord, one faith, one baptism ..."

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You believe something about Jesus

- Rather, you must believe the truth
 - Hebrews 11:6 - "... whoever would draw near to God ..."
 - John 1:1-5 - "He was in the beginning with God"
 - John 8:31-32 - "... the truth will set you free"
 - Acts 6:7 - "... **obedient** to the faith"
 - Matthew 7:21-23 - "... does the will ..."

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You are religious

- Acts 8:26-39 - "... there was an Ethiopian"
 - Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, etc.
- "I go to church, give, pray, etc."
- The object of our religion is God, not self
 - Matthew 6:1 - "... in order to be seen by them"
- Christians are religious
 - James 1:22-25 - "be doers of the word"

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You live a good, honest life

- Acts 10:1-2 - "... a man named Cornelius"
- Honest Muslim, Hindu, or other denomination?
 - False standards for salvation
 - cf. Acts 11:13-14 - "... a message by which you will be saved"
- Christians follow the apostles' teachings
 - Philippians 4:8-9 - "practice these things"

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You are sincere

- "Just be sincere" is Satan's lie to you
- Sincerity does not wash away your sins
 - Saul/Paul - cf. Acts 8:3; cf. Acts 26:9-11
 - cf. Acts 22:6-16 - "wash away your sins"
- But you cannot be a Christian without being sincere
 - I Peter 2:1-3 - "... grow up to salvation"

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You have been "baptized"

- Acts 19:1-7 - "Into John's baptism"
- Many baptisms are practiced
 - Modern methods: immersion, pouring, sprinkling
- The New Testament mentions several:
 - Immersion, Holy Spirit, fire, baptism of John (repentance), into Moses
 - cf. Ephesians 4:5-6 - "... one baptism"

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You have been "baptized"

- The New Testament method
 - Acts 8:36-39 - "... down into the water"
 - Romans 6:3-4 - "buried ... with him"
- What is the purpose of New Testament baptism?
 - Mark 16:15-16 - "... will be saved"
 - I Peter 3:20-21 - "... now saves you"
 - Acts 22:16 - "... wash away your sins"
 - Galatians 3:27 - "... have put on Christ"

You're Not a Christian Simply Because ...

You have been "baptized"

- What is the result of New Testament baptism?
 - Acts 2:40-41, 46-47 - "... the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved"
 - I Corinthians 12:13-14 - "... we were all baptized into one body"

A Christian Belongs To The Church of Christ

- Ephesians 1:22-23 - "which is his body"
- Ephesians 4:4 - "... called to the one hope"
- Not: "Join the church of your choice"
- Not: "The church does not matter"
 - Acts 20:28 - "obtained with his own blood"
 - Ephesians 3:10-11 - "the eternal purpose"
 - Ephesians 5:23, 25 - "gave himself up ..."
- Not: Churches of men
 - Matthew 16:18 - "... I will build **my** church"
 - Acts 11:26 - "... first called Christians"

Are We Being Faithful Christians?

Christians have been saved from past sins

- Ephesians 1:7 - "the forgiveness of our trespasses"

Christians have obeyed Christ's plan of salvation

- Acts 2:38-41 - "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"

Are We Being Faithful Christians?

Committed to faithful living

- Romans 6:4 - "walk in newness of life"
- Luke 6:47-48 - "... hears ... does them"

Devout, honest, sincere, a servant

- James 1:26-27 - "Religion that is pure ..."
- Philippians 1:27 - "... worthy of the gospel"
- Philippians 2:12-13 - "work out ... salvation"

Obediently walking in God's works

- II Corinthians 5:7 - "... walk by faith ..."
- Ephesians 2:10 - "we should walk in them"
- Hebrews 5:9 - "... to all who obey him"

Are We Being Faithful Christians?

Faithful Christians are sacrificial

- Luke 9:23 - "let him deny himself ..."
- Luke 14:33 - "any one of you who does not renounce all that he has ..."
- Matthew 6:33 - "... seek first the kingdom of God ..."
- Priority is to Christ and His truth, sacrificing everything else to put Jesus first
- Revelation 2:9-10 - "Be faithful unto death"

This Is A Christian

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

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (I Corinthians 15:58).

Obedying The Gospel

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 - "... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 - "... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ..."

Obedying The Gospel

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 - "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 - "... with the mouth one confesses and is saved"

Obedying The Gospel

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 - "Repent and be baptized every one of you ..."

Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 - "if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain"