

Who Is a Christian?

Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16

Introduction:

A. "Christian" is used loosely in our society.

1. Of various kinds of humanitarian projects and institutions.
2. Of good men and women regardless of religious convictions or affiliations.

It is not what men eat but what they digest that makes them strong; Not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; not what we preach but what we practice that makes us Christians. Source Unknown.

B. "Christian" has a more restricted meaning in the Bible—we shall notice:

1. What one can do and not be a Christian, yet must do if he is a Christian.
2. What makes one a Christian.

Discussion:

I. Some Things One Can Do And Not Be a Christian, Yet Christians must Do.

A. Be a good citizen. (Rom. 13:1-5).

B. Be a good family person.

1. A good spouse. (Eph. 5:22-26).
2. A good parent. (Eph. 6:4).
3. A good child. (Eph. 6:1).

C. Be a good neighbor. (Rom. 13:9).

D. Be religious and morally upright. (Acts 10:1-2)

1. God fearing.
2. Generous
3. Praying.

4. Honest. (2 Cor. 8:21 KJV)

5. Truthful. (Eph. 4:25)

E. Attend church regularly—do items of worship. (Heb. 10:25).

F. Live with a good conscience. (Acts 23:1; 26:9; 24:16).

II. If One Can Do The Above And Not Be a Christian, Then What Is a Christian?

A. A Christian is a disciple of Christ. (Acts 11:26; Isaiah 62.1-2).

1. Disciples are made by being baptized. (Matt. 28:18-20 NKJ, ASV).

2. Disciples are made by being taught to observe all things commanded.

3. Disciples are totally committed to Christ. (John 8:31; Luke 14:33)

B. A Christian is saved — baptized are saved. (Mark 16:15,16).

1. Has remission of sins. (Acts 2:38).

2. Has sins washed away. (Acts 22:16)

C. A Christian is a member of New Testament church.

1. Baptized into one body (1 Cor. 12:13) — body church. (Eph. 1:22,23).

2. Saved added to church. (Acts 2:47).

3. Not a member of a denomination.

Conclusion:

A. There are many things a Christian must do that non-Christians may do without being a Christian.

1. So, do not assume that because you do many things Christians do that you are a Christian.

2. Nor assume that because one can do them without being a Christian that as a Christian you can neglect them.

B. If you want to be a Christian you have to believe, repent and be baptized and commit yourself to a life of obedience.