

# Who Is A Christian?

**Introduction:** The word "*Christian*" is often misused. We hear of a "Christian" massacre, a "Christian" nation, "UNchristian" behavior, etc. Catholics and Protestants terrorize one another in Northern Ireland...both claiming to be Christians. Many misunderstand the term. But what does the *Bible* say? And more especially are YOU a Christian?

## I) Who Is A Christian? (negative)

- A) Old Testament Faithful; e.g. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, etc.? **No!**
  - \* They lived *before* Christ. See Matthew 11:10,11
- B) A Morally Good Person? **Not necessarily!**
  - \* This would have to include some atheists and Moslems, etc. Read Acts 10:1,2; 11:12-14
- C) A Believer in Jesus Christ? **Not necessarily!**
  - \* Consider John 12:42,43 and Luke 12:8,9
- D) A Person Who Is Zealous For God? **Not necessarily!**
  - \* Many may associate zeal with being right; e.g. cults, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, evangelicals, etc.
  - \* Notice Romans 10:1-3 & Acts 22:3-10
- E) One Who Has Been Baptized? **Not always!**
  - \* See Acts 19:1-7
- F) A Churchgoer? **Not always!**
  - \* I Corinthians 14:23 shows unbelievers can attend assemblies of the church.
- G) Children of Parents Who Are Christians? **No!**
  - \* Where is the Scripture describing GRANDchildren of God?
- H) The Well-off Of The World? **No!**
  - \* Prosperity is no proof of God's favor. See Mark 10:23-26

## II) Who Is A Christian? (positive)

- A) A **Disciple** Of Christ - Acts 11:26
- B) A **Follower** Of Christ - Luke 14:27,33
- C) One Who Has **Properly Begun** To Follow - Matthew 28:18-20 "Go make disciples **baptizing** them..." Illust. "Go make soldiers of these new recruits **training** them..." Imagine a man going to war without joining the military.
- D) One Who **Continues** To Follow - John 8:31; Mt.28:20; I John 2:6. Illust. "following" a recipe, map directions, a parent's instructions, etc. No more. No less. No presumption allowed. Illust. Peanut butter and jelly on the Lord's Supper bread; instrumental music in worship; leaving off baptism, etc.
- E) One Who Becomes **Christlike** in following - Luke 6:40; Romans 8:29. Can you imagine a "disciple" of Karl Marx not promoting his philosophy? Not knowing his writings? The same can be said of a disciple of Christ!

**Conclusion:** Are you truly a *Christian*? According to God's definition? The New Testament also instructs Christians to join themselves to a group of Christians for collective service. A Christian "at large" is nowhere taught in Scripture. He must find a congregation that **follows** Christ in worship, work, teaching, organization...in every way, for **following** is the essence of true Christianity.