

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are at least three major religions in the world today: Jewish, Moslem and Christian
- B. The group generally know as Christians would be in the majority. These would be the ones who claim to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- C. However, the vast majority of this group do not know what it means to be a Christian.
- D. I want to look with you at three passages from Scripture and examine them to find out just what a Christian is.

DISCUSSION:

I. A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO IS A DISCIPLE Acts 11:26

- A. A disciple is a learner Jhn 6:44,45
- B. A disciple is a follower 1Pet 2:21
- C. A disciple is a doer Jas 1:22-25

II. A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO IS PERSUADED Acts 26:28

- A. Persuaded of the factual basis of Jesus being the Son of God Acts 2:36
- B. Persuaded that they can resist temptation 1Cor 10:13
- C. Persuaded that a life of service is worth the cost Lk 14:25-33
- D. Persuaded that security is provided 1Pet 5:6,7; 3:12; Rom 5:1; Phil 4:4-7
- E. Persuaded each one must give account to God Rom 14:12; Eccl 12:14
- F. Persuaded that it may be necessary to stand alone Matt 10:34-39

III. A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO IS UNASHAMED 1Pet 4:16; Rom 9:33

- A. Unashamed of UNJUST criticism 1Pet 4:4, 15, 16; 2:15
- B. Unashamed of physical afflictions 2Cor 11:23-29; 2Cor 4:16,17
- C. Unashamed of Christ and His words (gospel) Mk 8:38; Rom 1:16
- D. Unashamed of being in the minority Jhn 6:66-69

IV. IT TAKES A SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM FOR ONE TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN!

- A. A scriptural baptism involves a person who has:
 1. Been taught the Word of God Matt 28:19,20; Jhn 6:44,45
 2. Believed in Jesus Christ Mk 16:16; Acts 8:36; Rom 10:17
 3. Repented of their past sins Acts 2:38; Lk 13:3

4. Confessed Christ as the Son of God Acts 8:37; Rom 10:10
- B. A scriptural baptism involves a person who has been immersed in water for the right purpose
 1. To be saved Mk 16:16; 1Pet 3:21
 2. For (in order to have) the remission of sins Acts 2:38; Note Matt 26:28
 3. To have their sins washed away Acts 22:16
 4. To put on Christ Gal 3:26,27
 5. To enter the body of Christ 1Cor 12:13
 6. To obtain the benefits of His death Rom 6:4
- C. This action plus the previous actions described constitute the new birth by which we enter God's family or His Kingdom Jhn 3:3,5

CONCLUSION:

- A. These principles demonstrate to us that there is more to being a Christian than just saying that we are one.
- B. Living as a Christian involves a life of dedicated service to Christ as our Lord and Master, that results from having a heart that is fully persuaded and a mind set that will allow nothing to deter them. Anything less than this is not being a Christian.
- C. We need to examine ourselves and see if we are in fact Christians.
- D. Did you know that a person can even be a "child of God" and in fact, not be a Christian?
- E. But certainly one cannot be a Christian before they are born into the family of God by the spiritual birth previously described.
- F. Have you been born into His family? If not then you are not a Christian!
- G. Are you faithfully following Jesus as your Lord and Master? If not then you are not a Christian!