



Am I Really A "Christian"?

If you asked somebody on the street, "What is a Christian?" you might get several different responses:

- *"Someone who goes to church every Sunday, or at least at Christmas and Easter."*
- *"Someone who lives a decent, moral life."*
- *"A person who is on the membership list of a particular denomination."*
- *"Those who accept Jesus into their hearts as their personal Savior."*

But what is Jesus' definition?

"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:34-37).

It is so easy for people to imagine that they are followers of Jesus when they are not. Discipleship is not mere church membership or living a good, moral life. It is total devotion to Jesus Christ. It is to die to self and live 100% for the Lord, never being ashamed of Him and His words. Am I really Jesus' disciple?

The mindset of many today can be illustrated by the following conversation:

"Are you a Christian?"

"Yes."

"What church are you a part of?"

"Oh, I worship God on my own time in my house."

Is this a conversation that would have taken place in the New Testament?

Acts 2 tells about the first day that the gospel was preached. The apostle Peter told the people about atoning death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Verse 41 tells us how the people responded:

"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." They are saved! They were the very first Christians!

But did those people stop there? The next verse tells us that *"they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."* They were *"day by day continuing with one mind"* (verse 46).

If you are a Christian, find a group of people with the same beliefs based on the Bible and be a part of that church. Assemble with them to encourage each other (Heb.10:24-25) and be a part of everything they do.

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