



~What is a Christian?~

If you asked 10 people this question, you would probably get as many answers. Many people believe that a Christian is someone who is born and lives in the Western Hemisphere or someone born into a Christian home. Still, others believe that they are Christians if they attend a Christian church, study the Catechisms, attend Christian School or can recite the 10 commandments.

Some believe that they are Christians because they are NOT--Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Jews or members of any of the other religions

All the answers above, of course, are wrong! There is only one definition of a Christian and that is a person who is **IN CHRIST!**

What does that mean—in Christ? Well, Paul stated it like this:

Rom 8:1 *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

If that is so, then how do I get ‘in Christ’? The answer is to believe (trust) in Jesus Christ as your Savior and He will place you into His Spiritual body. Paul explains in the following:

1 Cor 12:13 *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*

You see, when you ask the Lord Jesus to save you, He, by His Spirit, baptizes (spiritually places) you into His body, which is comprised of all believers. He is the head and we become part of His body. He, in other words, directs us and we follow Him.

So, you see, it does not matter what you do, or where you live, or even who you are! The important thing is whether you are in Christ or not! Nothing else matters! It is that simple.

When Adam sinned, he included all of us *in his sin*. He was the Federal head of the human race. His sin plunged all of us into his condemnation. We, along with our head, Adam, were condemned. However, as we were damned in Adam, we can be saved in Jesus. How can this be done?

Acts 16:30-31 *He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe (trust) in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."—emphasis mine.*

When Jesus died on the cross, He involved us, as Christians, in His salvation in the same way that Adam involved us in his sin. In Adam, we were damned and in Christ, we are saved! **We have to get out of Adam and into Christ!**

1 Cor 15:22 *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

In some countries, an innocent person can die in the place of a guilty one. After the death of the person who dies, the other person is free from the punishment of that crime forever—even though the person was guilty. The punishment has been fulfilled! That person can never be punished again for that crime.

Jesus died in our place. We can never be condemned for our sins again as Jesus took the punishment. All that is required of us is to: "Believe (trust) in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. THAT IS IT!

How does one become a Christian? By recognizing his/her sins and repenting (stop sinning) of committing those sins and asking Jesus to forgive him/her and lead and guide him/her the rest of his/her life. That means that we, as Christians, now live a life dedicated to Him and no longer live for ourselves.

John 3:3 'In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."'

What is being 'born again' all about? Does that have anything to do with becoming a Christian? Being born again is an act of God whereby He gives us life and wakes us from our 'dead' condition to see the necessity of asking Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. The real term is being born from above (another is the Greek word) and is similar to being born physically although it is a *spiritual* birth. As babies are born first and **then** breathe, we are born from above first and **then** believe!

Once someone is born again, he/she sees the real view of life for the first time!! Folks who are born again, see their sin, God's forgiveness, and then turn to Him in faith and ask for forgiveness and salvation. It is at this point that they are saved from the damnation that comes from Adam, and their own sins, as well!

As you can see, being born again precedes being saved. One causes the other to follow. At this point, you may want to turn to my article "Born Again" to see a more in-depth analysis of what it is.

But, what about all those laws, rules and regulations, and 'thou shalts' and 'thou shalt nots'? I am only stating in this article what a Christian IS and **not** what a Christian DOES!

So, in conclusion, let us recap what a Christian is! It is a person who:

- realizes that he/she is a sinner in need of being put right with God
- and also realizes that he/she cannot make amends for his/her sins by anything that he/she does, who then,
 - turns to Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for his/her sins on the cross
 - and then repents (stops) of his/her sins and asks Jesus to forgive him/her
 - and who then lives under the Lordship of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

If there are any questions that you have regarding salvation, please do not hesitate to contact me.