

# CHRISTIAN OF THE YEAR

Time magazine named “the protester” as their man of the year. The article stated,

“As it has for the past eight decades, Time magazine selected its person of the year Wednesday morning. The magazine's editors chose the man or woman (or sometimes group or idea) they believe had the greatest impact during the past twelve months, for good or for ill. In 2011, they chose: “The Protester.”



It has become very popular to choose or offer an “...of the Year” award by a wide variety groups. There is the “News Story of the Year,” the “Rookie of the Year,” “Teacher of the Year,” the “Librarian of the Year,” and even a “Belly Dancer of the Year” award.

What if God gave out a “Christian of the Year” award? What qualities would God look for in a person who would receive such an award? I believe that God would look for the qualities that are present within Himself.

**Honesty:** God is the God of truth and cannot lie (Psalm 31:5; Titus 1:2). Lies are from Satan (John 8:44). Therefore a dishonest person could not be God’s choice.

**Kindness and compassion:** An essential part of Jesus’ impact upon the world was because down deep inside He is a person of compassion. He ate with sinners, He fed the hungry, He healed the sick, and He forgave his enemies (Luke 23:34).

**Service:** God causes the rain to fall on the just and on the unjust (Psalm 145:9; Acts 14:17). Paul made himself a servant to all (1 Corinthians 9:19).

**Obedience:** Jesus obeyed His heavenly Father in all things (John 8:29; 14:31). Philippians 2:8 says, “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

**Faithfulness:** It is required of stewards that one be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2). Faithfulness is akin to obedience, but it also carries with it the meaning of obeying from the heart. A Christian is faithful because he genuinely desires to please his heavenly Father (John 14:31; Romans 6:17).

**Love:** The number 1 quality that would make a Christian stand head and shoulders above the world is love. The old spiritual states “God is love.” Over and over again God is described in Scripture as a loving God and Father. His actions prove beyond all doubt that He is a loving God. John wrote, “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

Time Magazine does not take into account whether their “person of the year’s” influence was for either good or evil. They remain neutral in such matters. But since Christianity is, by definition, a religion of good, would a person’s disobedience be taken into account in God’s choice for Christian of the Year? How much weight would a person’s sin carry in God’s decision? Would it make a difference about the kind of sin? The fact is that all sin is a transgression against God’s word (1 John 3:4).

But thanks be to God that each person who is cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ can stand before God pure and holy. Such is not competing for “Christian of the Year,” but is a sanctified and justified Christian; a beloved child of the God of heaven. “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15).