



The Idea of Being a Christian



"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I

press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14)

Several years ago, I read a statement about what it means to be a Christian. It went something like this: the beginning and ending of what it means to be a Christian is to follow Jesus and everything in-between is measured by that. Thus, the essence of being a Christian, by virtue of the name, is to identify oneself with Christ.

The Christian maintains his identity with Christ as he loses his life in service to Him. We are not a Christian just on Sundays and Jesus is not just some hometown hero to be worshipped only when we are in town. We are followers of Jesus whenever and wherever. It would be hard for anyone who understood Jesus' teaching (regardless of whether they believed in Him or not) to deny that the world would be better if all men followed Christ. Yet too often, we as Christians make it easy for the world to disbelieve there is any value in identifying with Christ in order to makes us a better people. *Continued on page 3*

