

## Stop Calling Yourself a “Christian”!

Words, over time and with cultural influences, change in meaning. This is why I often research and provide the *original language* meanings from the time they were used in the Bible. Some suggest that the word “Christian” was originally a derogatory descriptive term employed by detractors, cf. Acts 11:26. Perhaps this is so, but what then is “*new name*” prophesied in Isa.62:2,4,12? These things notwithstanding...

There are people who are “*worthy*” of the *name* and *calling*, cf. Eph.4:1; Phil.1:27; Col.1:10; 1Thess.2:12; and those who are “*not worthy*” or “*unworthy*” of the name “Christian” and what it implies, Matt.22:8 and Acts 13:46. Who are they? Are you and/or me some of them. Let’s make this as simple as possible:

- “**What *is* a ‘Christian’?**” A Christian is one who ***believes*** and ***obeys/follows*** ‘Christ.’
- “**What does a ‘Christian’ *believe* about Christ?**” A Christian *believes* that Jesus Christ:
  - Was born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit; that He was both the *Son of Man* and the *Son of God*; that He was God incarnate, Heb.2:14-18. Awesome ***pedigree***, wouldn’t you say?
  - Performed many miracles to prove He was the Messiah, and proclaimed *the gospel* so that people might know how to be saved, and stay that way (come to God and live in a way that pleases Him). A life of ***purpose***, wouldn’t you say?
  - Died on a cross for the sins of the world. That He, as a sinless sacrifice, became the *propitiation* for the sins of mankind. Terrible ***price***, wouldn’t you say?
  - Was buried (because He was *dead!*) but rose from the grave on the third day, and *appeared* to many witnesses, 1Cor.15:4-8. Mighty ***proof***, wouldn’t you say?
  - Ascended to heaven and the Father’s right hand to rule the aptly named “Kingdom of Christ” until the end of time when He shall deliver the kingdom to the Father and spend an eternity with the *citizens* of it in heaven, 1Cor.15:24-28. Quite the ***position***, wouldn’t you say?

**So, given this definition of a ‘Christian,’ and their convictions about ‘Christ,’ how do some who claim to be “Christians” but blatantly *disagree* with Him?**

1. **About the *creation* of the Universe and the *origin* of man, Heb.3:4; 11:3; Acts 14:15-17; 17:24-25.** If you *believe* and *follow* “Evolution,” then stop calling yourself a “Christian”- you’re not one if you *disagree* with Christ about the origin of *all things* and His place and part in it, Col.1:15-16! *Evolutionists* and *Theistic Evolutionists* disagree with Christ, and thus need to stop calling themselves “Christians.” And while we’re at it, a *nation* who no longer believes in God, Christ, and the Spirit as *Creator(s)*, is no longer “Christian” either.
2. **About *origin, purpose, and obligations* of marriage, Matt.19:3-9?** Christians *believe* and *follow* Christ about marriage’s ***origin*** (from God, not men), ***purpose*** (*helper suitable or meet, companionship, procreation and child-rearing*), and ***obligations*** (*headship/submission arrangement, duration and exception*). When

we, as individuals or as a nation, began to *disagree* with Christ about the *origin*, *purpose*, and *obligations* of marriage, we stopped being “Christian(s).” And, in my opinion, we began the downward death-spiral of our society and nation.

3. **About who can and will *inherit eternal life*, Rev.21:7-8; 1Cor.6:9.** You not only *can* but also *must* “love the sinner” but “hate the sin.” That’s what Jesus did, Matt.9:10-13. But refusing to call what He called “sin” is *disagreeing* with Christ. Stop calling yourself a “Christian” if you *disagree* with Him about what “sin” is! If you no longer believe that *fornication, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, theft, swindling, cowardice, murder, immorality, and lying* is “sin,” and if unrepented and thus unforgiven, prevents entrance to heaven, you forfeit the right to call yourself a “Christian.”
4. **About *loving your family more than Him*, Matt.10:34-38.** If your *physical* family means more to you than your *spiritual* family (*Father, Brother, and brethren*), or if you set or push aside your *spiritual* family and its interests for those of your *physical* family, you need to stop calling yourself a “Christian.”
5. **About *loving yourself and/or your life more than Him and His*, Gal.2:20; 5:24; Matt.16:24-25.** If your *pleasures* and *pursuits* are more important than and take precedence over *His*, stop calling yourself a “Christian.” If your *personal wealth, welfare, and happiness* is preeminent over what is “*pleasing to the Lord*” (cf. Eph.5:10), you’re no longer “*worthy*” of the name “Christian.”
6. **About *loving your nation/country and being more concerned with its government and welfare more than the King, Jesus Christ, and His kingdom*, Matt.6:33.** If you’re more interested and invested in your *liberty* and *rights* in this country than being *free from sin* (and its consequences), and more concerned with which political party is in power than with the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (1Tim.6:19), stop calling yourself a “Christian.” You may be a “patriotic American,” but that is not synonymous with “*citizen of the kingdom*.”

## Conclusions

The above are but a few examples, but the list could obviously be greatly expanded. Here are the take-aways:

1. Everyone has the right (granted by God through *free moral agency*) to *believe* and *follow* whomever and whatever they desire. But...
2. Anyone who calls themselves a “Christian” must **believe** and **follow Christ**. He is the *King of kings* (and Christianity) and this is not Burger King, so you **cannot** have “Christianity” *your way!*
3. Therefore, if you *disagree* with Christ in faith or in practice, you can no longer claim to be a “Christian,” cf. Amos 3:3. **Either stop *disagreeing with Christ*, and failing to put Him/His *first*, or stop calling yourself a “Christian”!** This is true of individuals, groups (even the so-called “religious” ones), and nations.

“Christians,” by definition and necessity, must **believe** and **follow Christ**. They must “**seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness**,” Matt.6:33. **Do you?**