

ARE YOU A 100% CHRISTIAN?



**TEXT: *Acts 26:28: Then Agrippa said unto Paul,
Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.***

An expression used frequently in urging Americans to be patriotic is: “Be a 100% American.” This is a noble phrase, if nobly used. There are thousands of Americans who are unworthily applying the name American to themselves, but they are 100% independent of all restraint; they demand freedom to do as they please, irrespective of others. A genuine, 100% American seeks only the highest good and greatest welfare of his country.

**To be 100%
Christian means to
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of our living.**

It is needful to bring this expression into the Church of Jesus Christ today. To be 100% Christian means to be Christlike in all of our living. There is a measure of moral conformity, but it is a form of godliness without the life behind it. A 100% Christian is all in for Christ.

What a wonderful name to be called — *Christian*. Not a Methodist, Baptist, Nazarene, Holiness, or Pentecost, but a Christian! But it is more wonderful when we live the worthiness of the name. The time has come when professors of Bible salvation need to be 100% in earnest, or quit.

First of all, what is a *Christian* – or *Christ follower*?

Before we can be 100% Christian, we must look into the Bible Standard of *What Conditions* have to be met to entitle us to this name.

A little boy asked his father, “What is a Christian?” He answered so carefully from the Bible that the boy responded with, “Father, have I ever seen one?”

A Christian is like a good watch — an open face, busy hands, tells the truth, is well regulated, and full of good works. Religion and socialism can put a new suit on a man; but Christianity puts a new man in the suit.

What Christianity is not:

- 1. Not a creed**
- 2. Not baptism, confirmation, joining church (the devil is pleased with church membership)**

3. **Not morality**
4. **Not good works or charitable deeds**
5. **Not prayer, devotion, or forms of worship**
6. **Not feeling**
7. **Not merely believing in Jesus**
8. **Not going to an altar**

In this befuddled age of splits and -isms and schisms, one fighting the other and living such low lives, one feels like rising in the midst of the bedlam and ask, “What is a Christian?” Christians can hardly be identified nowadays.

A Christian is one who knows Christ as his personal Saviour, and is living by faith in Him, a follower of Christ, and in fellowship with Him.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

A Christian is a born-again member of the Family of God. All those who belong to this family have family likenesses and characteristics.



- A. They will love the Lord Jesus and Honor Him.**
- B. They will love righteousness and will hate iniquity.**
- C. They will be Christlike in their ways, have a new talk, a new walk, new songs and desires.**
- D. They will be strangers and pilgrims on earth; a *peculiar* people, hated by the world.**
- E. They will be separated from the world.**

Going to church doesn't make a man a Christian any more than a man becomes a horse by going into a stable.

A Christian is a new creature in Christ, with a pure heart.

Since it is the new birth that makes us new creatures by implanting in us the Spirit of God Himself, we are delivered from what we were.

1 Corinthians 6:11: And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

How could anyone possibly walk in the Light and by the Spirit of God within, and hate the things he once loved, and love the things he once hated, unless a divine operation has taken place?

Galatians 5:24: And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

2 Corinthians 7:11: For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.



Ephesians 4:24: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2 Thessalonians 2:13: But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to Salvation through Sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the Truth:

How could Peter testify as he did?

1 Peter 1:2: Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through Sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

How can a person who still has an evil nature walk in obedience and sanctification? How could Peter declare we are born of God and expected to love one another with a pure heart, fervently, if the *New Birth* does not purify our hearts?

1 Peter 1:22: Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

How can a Holy God, by the Holy Spirit, beget an unholy child? You might as well deny the Holiness of God as to claim that He can! The *New Birth* makes us a child of God. We are members of the divine family, and there are certain earmarks, or family characteristics, we must carry out to prove the same.

God does not give us a disobedience to the Word — He that is born of God doeth righteousness.

1 John 2:29: If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him.

1 Peter 2:7-8:

⁷ Unto you therefore which believe He [Chief Corner Stone] is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the Stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the Head of the corner,

⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Too often, false instructions and false comforts have been given to sinners under conviction. This has not led them to a born-again experience.

The first direction to every sinner should include a change of heart, a right heart, and whole-hearted obedience to Christ. We actually become CHRISTIANS — Christ's redeemed ones. Any directions falling short of this are of no use.

As long as you remain in your sins, you are in rebellion against Christ. You may read the Bible, even pray and go to church; but unless you are through with your sins and have purpose in your heart to **follow Christ**, you are an enemy of the Cross of Christ. No matter where you are, whether in church or at home, if you are trying to be religious — but your heart is not right — Christ does not abide within, and you are not a Christian!

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The Spirit of God is striving with sinners to dislodge them from covering up sins and running for secret hiding places of excuses. The Spirit of God seeks to bring you to submit to God at once. Don't allow whatever sin is in your heart — about which the Spirit of God is convincing you — be the thing that keeps you from being a 100% Christian. You need to submit to His conviction and repent of your sins.

The next thing is to trust in Christ as your only Saviour. The Holy Spirit, in dealing with every heart, points you to Christ. If you struggle with the Spirit and desire to hold back some secret sins, you never can be saved.

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Repentance is more than remorse or a sense of guilt; it is turning away from wicked ways. It is turning to Christ.

A strong fear of Hell or a regret that one has lived wrong, is not repentance. Repentance is a change of mind towards, and turning away from sin, and toward the Lord Jesus. It includes abhorrence of sin. It implies forsaking sin.

If you feel inclined toward the old life but are afraid of being caught up with that old life, you are not right or you are in danger of backsliding. Every true child of God will not lust after the old life, but will loath the old flesh pots of Egypt.



A Christian will take highest pleasure in obeying God and His Word, and will believe the Gospel from the heart. A Christian will love Christ and will give his heart to the Lord Jesus in complete surrender. This means you submit yourself to the Lord and will to do His Will to please Him. This constitutes true salvation. This makes you a real Christian, not a mere professor with head religion.

The world is so accustomed to labeling all who are not pagans as Christians. We must see who the Bible surely calls the Christians.

The word “Christians” is found three times:

Acts 11:26: And when he [Barnabas] had found him [Saul], he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Acts 26:28: Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

1 Peter 4:16: Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

We note this name was first given to saints by the world, by enemies of the Cross. They were designated as followers of Christ, whose daily walk was opposite to theirs. Only those whose lives, conduct, conversation, and daily walk have merited or deserved for them that title, can truly bear the name Christian.

When Paul told his marvelous experience of becoming a Christian to King Agrippa

and his wife, the King was so moved that he

exclaimed, ***“Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” Acts 26:28***



A true Christian will bear much reproach for the Name of Christ.

1 Peter 4:16: Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Jesus told us the world would hate the believer and will suffer for nonconformity to this world. You cannot do what the world does.

Once a Christian asked how to entertain her company. “Well”, said the minister, “it depends on whom you are entertaining. If a horse, give him bran; a cow, give her hay; a hog, give it slop; a literary man, some good literature; a carnal man, some fleshy indulgence; if a spiritual man, give him Christ and spiritual things. Your entertaining and desires for the worldly are but a reflection of your spiritual life.”
100% Christians are the greatest influence to bring souls to Christ.

What is a 100% Christian?

- 1. One who is fully separated from worldly pleasures**
- 2. One who is fully separated from a life of sin**

You cannot be 100% for Christ, and be living a worldly life. Israel separated herself from Egypt, and God commanded her to separate from the world. “Ye shall be alone and not reckoned among the nations.”

They came to the very threshold of Canaan, but they perished at the gates of the Promised Land through unbelief. They were God’s children, but they were not following Him 100%.

So today, many are dying just outside the full inheritance in Christ because they are not 100% separated unto Christ. It is not a question of, “How close can I travel with the world and remain a Christian?” but, “Am I 100% separated unto Christ, to save and win the lost to Christ? Am I another Lot, mixed with the world and powerless as a witness, even to my own children?”



3. One who is fully surrendered to God

If we are not fully yielded, unreservedly surrendered to Christ, we cannot be 100% Christian. Yield yourselves unto God as instruments unto righteousness.

Romans 6:13: Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

The lad who surrendered all his lunch to Jesus saw Jesus feed 5,000 men.

See also Joshua at Jericho (**Joshua 6**); David and Goliath (**1 Samuel 16 and 17**).

4. The disciples were not 100% Christians.

Acts 19:2: He [Paul] said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit.

Don't say you are a 100% Christian unless you ARE filled with the Holy Spirit!

5. A 100% Christian is one who is deeply in love with Christ, and shows it.

A Christian shows love for Christ in their love to pray, and in their love for the Word, and obedience to the Word. Pray until the fire of Pentecost falls!

The church is full of half-believing and half-infidels. There are half-starved Christians who do not know how to pray, do not love Jesus, and do not love the Word of God.

6. A 100% Christian believes in Jesus' Second Coming and is pouring out his life for Christ.

A Christian is one whose life is the utter contradiction to the idea of 'sleeping virtue'. Rather, his life is a reflection of the virtue found in His Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As a Christian continues to follow Christ and to become more like Him, those with whom he comes in contact will see the virtue in his life.



Remember, the devil wants to disarm every Christian so he will not be ready to meet Jesus. Purpose in your heart today that you will become a 100% Christian — one who is a follower of Jesus Christ every day and in every way!

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