



# Church of Christ

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## Heart to Heart...

The name "Christian" is used so loosely in our world today, it has little meaning anymore. People always refer to themselves or others as a "Christian." We have "Christian radio", "Christian gatherings", "Christian concerts" and "Christian television." People say they believe in God and Christ, and they are "Christian." What really constitutes one being a "Christian?"

A true "Christian" is a disciple or follower of Jesus. They are the ones who acknowledge Christ as their sin-bearer and are united with Him in baptism (Rom. 6:3-6). A person truly forgiven, will have a great love for their Lord. Their faith trusts in Him, and they humbly walk in His will, giving up themselves for His name sake. A true "Christian" has committed themselves to the truth of God's word, submitting wholly to Christ on His terms. They love God's people and express that through their actions and attitudes.

What I have just described is a compiling of the totality of Scripture. There is no single verse, and no single section of Scripture which exhaustively tells us what a "Christian" is. We come to understand the term by putting together clearly-stated truth from the whole of the New Testament.

A true "Christian" has laid hold of the hope of Christ. They aren't looking at how good they are acting or how much they pray and study. Their heart and actions belong to the Lord Christ Jesus. It's all about Him, and what He has done for them. They are free from guilt because of Christ. They lovingly serve because of His love for them. They forgive because their Lord has forgiven them. They feast on His word, and His word alone, as that is what gives them their sustaining power. The love they possess is the same love their Lord has for them. They are self-sacrificing as He sacrificed His all for them. They examine things carefully, to make sure they walk in the steps of Jesus. They don't follow the world's idea of what a "Christian" is because the world has reduced the meaning to nothing more than religious! Even the devil can look religious and "Christian" ( II Cor. 11:14-15).

The term "Christian" never came from the followers of Jesus. It came from the world (Acts 11:26). We need to re-examine Scriptures to see if we really are a true "Christian" according to God. Would you want other people to imitate your faith? Are you a true "Christian" in the true sense of the word? Think about it!!!

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