

A CHRISTIAN BELONGS TO THE LORD

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: A Christian is a person who has been reborn through his/her belief in Jesus Christ and therefore has a new loyalty and that is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. A Christian has been "bought with a price" and consequently "belongs to the Lord." Belonging to the Lord has many benefits and obligations.

I. A CHRISTIAN BELONGS TO GOD

1. A Christian is one of God's own special people.
 - Peter describes God's special people in 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - They are "a chosen generation."
 - They are "a royal priesthood."
 - They are "a holy nation."
 - They are "His own special people."
 - Israel also was/is God's chosen people.
 - God chose them - Deuteronomy 10:15
 - God made them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation - Exodus 19:5
 - Israel had become a special people above all other nations - Deuteronomy 7:6
 - God started with a single nation, Israel but now any person who believes in Jesus Christ becomes a special person, just as the people of Israel were/are - Galatians 3:8-9, 28, 29
2. A Christian is a special person with special responsibilities.
 - A Christian is to proclaim the praises of God - 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - Because God has called the Christian out of darkness into His wonderful light.
 - Because God showed mercy and made the Christian one of His own.
 - A Christian is to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ - 2 Peter 1:8-11
 - In order to make his/her calling and election (as God's person) sure.
 - In order to have an abundant entry into God's everlasting kingdom.
 - The Christian needs to be reminded of not becoming hardened and lose his/her faith as Israel did.
 - Hebrews 3:12-4:2, 11

II. A CHRISTIAN IS A CHILD OF GOD

1. A Christian is blessed to be a child of God.
 - All people, in a sense, are God's children - Acts 17:26-29
 - Not all people, however, have God as their Father - John 8:42-44
 - A Christian is a child of God in a very special way:
 - because of his/her faith and having "put on" Christ in Baptism - Galatians 3:26-27
 - because he/she has been redeemed and adopted by God and has received the Holy Spirit into his/her heart - Galatians 4:4-6
 - because the Christian does the Father's will and Jesus considers him/her part of His family - Matthew 23:48-50
2. A Christian has blessings AND responsibilities.
 - A Christian is an heir of God and joint-heir with Jesus Christ - Galatians 4:7; Romans 8:16-17
 - An heir according to God's promise - Galatians 3:29

- An inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, does not fade and is reserved for him/her in heaven - 1 Peter 1:4
- As an heir, the Christian has many responsibilities:
 - He/she must be thankful for the inheritance he/she has - Colossians 1:12
 - He/she must abstain/refrain from the works of the flesh - Galatians 5:19-21
 - He/she is to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord - 2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1
- For the Christian to receive the promised blessings, he/she needs to patiently carry out his/her responsibilities with an enduring faith - Hebrews 10:35-39

III. A CHRISTIAN IS A PILGRIM OF GOD (No longer belonging to this world, is passing through)

1. A Christian is in the world, but no longer of the world.
 - Jesus mentioned this in a prayer for His disciples - John 17:15-16
 - A Christian is like Abraham, a sojourner, a pilgrim - Hebrews 11:13; 13:14; 1 Peter 1:1
 - A Christian is a fellow citizen with all of God's family - Ephesians 2:19
 - The true citizenship of a Christian is in heaven, not here on earth - Philippians 3:20
2. As a pilgrim of God, a Christian has several obligations:
 - He/she is to conduct his/her sojourn on earth with fear - 1 Peter 1:17
 - He/she is to abstain from worldly desires/lusts - 1 Peter 2:11; Jude 2:15-17
 - He/she is to keep his/her conduct honorable, filled with good works - 1 Peter 2:12
 - He/she is to obey the laws and respect the leaders of his/her own nation - 1 Peter 2:13-17

CONCLUSION:

1. A Christian "belongs to the Lord"
 - He/she is God's special person.
 - He/she is God's child.
 - He/she is God's "pilgrim."
2. As a Christian matures, he/she will understand the importance of his/her privileges with God.
 - He/she should be filled with gratitude and humility.
 - He/she should be moved to be the kind of person God intends.
3. Christian! Are you living and acting as one who "belongs to the Lord?"
 - Are YOU acting like a special person?
 - Are you living as a child of God should?
 - Is your life truly a temporary, sojourn, or are you living like you want to make this earth your permanent home?
4. ***"...Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20***