

A CHRISTIAN IS A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN REBORN

John 3:3

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: For pastors and other Christians, it is always exciting to see someone become a Christian, however, not everyone understands what all is involved but do sense that something meaningful is happening. Sadly, sometimes some Christians fail to appreciate the importance of being a Christian and as a result, they don't grow spiritually as they should. Jesus said that a person had to be "reborn" before he/she could enter into heaven. Just what is the importance and meaning of one becoming a Christian?

I. TO BE BORN AGAIN IS TO BECOME A NEW CREATION

1. A Christian is a "New Creation."
 - A Christian has risen out of the watery grave of baptism to newness of life. Romans 6:4-5
 - For a Christian, old things have passed away and all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17
2. Becoming a "New Creation" is made possible by virtue of a "New Birth."
 - A new birth happens by responding to the Word of God. James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:22-23
 - A new birth is produced by the working of the Holy Spirit. John 3:3-5; Titus 3:5-7
3. Becoming a "New Creation" begins a life of renewal.
 - The "inner" person is to be renewed daily. 2 Corinthians 4:16
 - Renewal involves the renewal of a person's mind. Romans 12:2

II. TO BE BORN AGAIN IS TO HAVE A NEW LIFE

1. A Christian has passed from "death" to life.
 - Jesus promised those who hear His words "new life." Jude 5:24-25
 - Once "dead" in sin, the Christian is made alive to God. Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:12-13
 - A Christian has the promise and future of eternal life through God's Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:11-13
2. A Christian has passed from darkness into light.
 - From darkness of not knowing God into the light of knowing God.
 - Jesus told Paul - Acts 26:18
 - Peter wrote to Christians - 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - Once living/walking in darkness, Christians can walk in the light.
 - They walk as children of light - Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5
 - "Light" represents goodness, righteousness and truth. Ephesians 5:9; Colossians 1:12-13

III. TO BE BORN AGAIN IS TO HAVE A NEW LOYALTY

1. A Christian is a "converted" person.
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
 - Loyalties are changed:
 - From serving self and sin to serving God - Romans 6:16-18
 - From serving falseness and idols to serving God - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
2. A Christian is "converted" to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The Christian acknowledges the Lordship of Jesus Christ - Acts 2:36; 1 Peter 3:15

- The Christian chooses to follow Jesus over his/her family, life and self - Matthew 10:37-39
- Upon making the choice to become a Christian, Jesus becomes the focus of one's life - Galatians 2:20

3. A Christian's loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ results in a "new life."

- In the new life, God blesses through Jesus Christ the Christian - Philippians 4:6-7
- In the new life, one finds strength to love that new life - Philippians 4:13

CONCLUSION:

1. Some significant things about a Christian is:

- that he/she experiences a new creation.
- that he/she enjoys a new life.
- that he/she is involved in a new loyalty.

2. Sadly not all Christians show evidence of being born again - why not?

- Some may have not truly experienced being born again.
 - Obedience not given in faith does not produce the new birth - Mark 16:16
 - For God's power to work, one must submit to Him in faith - Colossians 2:12-13
- Some may have indeed been born again and entered into the new life, but they may have gone back in sin by:
 - hardened by sin's deceitfulness, they have departed from God - Hebrews 3:12-13
 - entangled once again by the pollutions of the world - 2 Peter 2:20

3. When any Christian's loyalty is not where it ought to be, there is a loss of the things of God.