

## A DEFINITION OF A CHRISTIAN

**Acts 11:26; 26:28 1 Peter 4:16**

**Introduction:** "You don't act like a Christian!" "That doesn't sound very Christian to me!" So, just how does a Christian act? Just what kind of talk is "Christian talk?" Where did the word "Christian" come from anyhow? Originally those who followed Jesus were called learners, disciples or followers. So where did the name come from? "Christian" was a derogative name given by unbelievers to those who followed after the teachings of Jesus. The first "Christians" accepted that name and through the centuries it has stayed with the followers of Jesus and has become a name known around the world by millions.

Religion is even divided up into the "Christian" and "non-Christian" beliefs.

Are YOU a Christian? Here is a definition of a Christian:

**1. A Christian has been reborn into the Family of God.**

- Belief in Jesus, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, his/her name in the Family Register of God.

**2. A Christian is constantly changing.**

- Not what he/she was, not what he/she wants to be, not what he/she shall be one day.

**3. A Christian relies on Jesus.**

- Looks to Jesus for guiding, listens to Jesus for instruction, walks with Jesus in every day life.

**4. A Christian tries to put Jesus first in his/her life.**

- Learns the Words of Jesus, sings about Jesus, talks to Jesus through out the day, disregards his/her own interests in favor of doing what Jesus wants.

**5. A Christian is Jesus' representative here on earth.**

- Witnesses to others, reflects Jesus in what he/she says and does, seeks to obey all that Jesus reveals for him/her to do.

**6. A Christian knows Jesus personally.**

- Having walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, learned Jesus' thoughts and ways, it is only natural that he/she and Jesus become close.

**7. A Christian lives in the world but doesn't belong to it anymore.**

- Having been reborn into the Family of God, the Christian has a new home in a new place and it is not here on this earth. It is in Heaven where Jesus is.

**8. A Christian is as human as any other person.**

- Christians make mistakes but have those mistakes forgiven and still has his/her reward and place in Heaven. Non-Christians do not!

**9. A Christian is a soldier.**

- Every day the Christian does battle with God's greatest enemy - Satan.
- The Christian is protected by God as he/she encounters the enemy.
- The Christian will ultimately win, for Jesus has already defeated death, the grave, and Satan

**10. A Christian can be anybody who qualifies.**

- A child, a teenager, an adult, a boy, a girl, a man, a woman.
- Anybody who believes that Jesus died on a cross, was buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead can become a Christian.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. A Christian isn't just anybody who says he/she is.
2. A Christian isn't just anybody whom someone else says he/she is.
3. A Christian is a person who has believed in Jesus, asked for forgiveness, committed his/her life into Jesus' keeping, followed Jesus through baptism and is openly living for Jesus as much as he/she can.
4. A Christian is a member of God's Family.
5. A Christian is going to spend eternity in a place specially prepared by heavenly hands just for that Christian.
6. A Christian is indwelt with the presence of God the Holy Spirit and does not live one second without that presence.
7. There are not enough words to describe properly one of God's Family, a Christian.
8. ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN? If you are, aren't you glad? If you are not, don't you want to be?