

Be That Christian

Introduction. Assuming the name “Christian” is honestly very easy, but knowing exactly what the name entails and then living up to it is much more difficult. We don’t want anyone to be Christian in name only. We want you to be that Christian ...

I. Who Knows That The New Testament Is The Sole Source Of Instruction

- A. Why the New Testament? The Old Testament, while inspired and profitable (Romans 15:4), was the Law of God for Jews at Mt. Sinai (Deuteronomy 5:1-5), until the cross of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:15-17). It was fulfilled by Jesus and superseded by “the gospel of the kingdom” (Luke 16:16), the New Testament.
- B. Furthermore, what you or I think or feel or believe does not cut it either — what God has said in the New Testament is vital (Acts 20:32).
 - 1. The gospel contains the righteousness of God (Romans 1:16-17).
 - 2. We have everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:2-3).
 - 3. We are furnished completely for every good work (2 Timothy 3:14-17).
 - 4. We have the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).
 - 5. We must not add to or take from this revelation (Revelation 22:18-19).

II. Who Understands That Worship Is About Pleasing God Instead Of Self

- A. The act of worship is supposed to pay homage, reverence, and praise to God for who He is and what He has done (Hebrews 13:15). Attempts to placate and pleasure attendees fall feebly flat of that purpose. There is no doubt that the act of worshipping God also benefits the participants, but its focus must remain on God and what pleases Him.
- B. The New Testament says nothing of choirs or orchestras, dramatic performances, or praise dancing — why not let God tell us in His word what pleases Him instead of doing what we like, and expecting Him to accept it? Be that Christian who worships God “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24).

III. Who Regards Others As More Important Than Self

- A. Selfishness is at the heart (and in it too) of almost every sin we commit. We want and do what pleases us. Throughout His life, Jesus did the will of God and served others (Matthew 20:28). The only way to follow His example is to want, do, and take pleasure from doing God’s will instead of our own. Such requires selflessness instead of selfishness (Philippians 2:3-4). Only in this way can we have the attitude Christ (Philippians 2:5).
- B. This also includes loving those who do not love you. You think, “Oh no, I just can’t love and be nice to people that hate and mistreat me!” Then you cannot be a child of God because that is not only what He did, but also what He requires of His children (Matthew 5:43-44). Jesus went on to say in vv. 46-47 that even the godless love those who love them. Christians have a higher calling — one that emulates their Father who loved those opposed to Him enough to offer His own Son as a sacrifice to save them. Wholeness or completeness is found only in loving and doing as God does (Matthew 5:48).

IV. *Who Appreciates The Value Of Every Person*

- A. While all lives do indeed matter, people's eternal destinies matter even more (cp. Matthew 16:25-26). It sure did to Jesus (Nicodemus, John 3; Samaritan woman, John 4). The gospel makes no distinction among people (Galatians 3:28).
- B. While every Christian should appreciate the value of his own soul, he must also appreciate the value of every soul and do everything he can to snatch them from the fire (Jude 23). This will cause him to think, feel, speak, and act in a way that enables the saving of as many as possible (Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15-16).

V. *Who Thinks About What They Can Do To Glorify God Each Day*

- A. To glorify is to praise and honor. If such is regarded as our daily privilege, then our thoughts, intentions, and activities take on a new and sanctified purpose (Psalm 79:8-9; Isaiah 43:6-7; Ezekiel 36:22-23; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 2:9).
- B. Sure, we have daily tasks and duties that are not particularly holy in nature. But still yet, even they can be accomplished in a way that brings honor and glory to God (Colossians 3:17-4:6; cp. Romans 4:20; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11). Be a Christian who seeks to glorify God in everything all the time.
- C. When Islamic terrorists murdered 29 Bible believers in Egypt last week, it brought into sharp relief how easy devotion to God is in this country.
 - 1. The victims were in buses headed to a monastery in the desert. The Islamist barbarians did not just walk onto the vehicles and shoot indiscriminately. Instead, they pulled each person out and interrogated them. The Christian pilgrims were asked first if they were Christian and then told if they abandoned Christ and converted to Islam they would be spared. When each person refused to renounce their faith, they were shot in the head or the throat. Apparently, all of the victims, even the children, died heroically in this way; they accepted death rather than betray their beliefs.
 - 2. Imagine facing this yourself. And there are two questions here, remember. You must choose martyrdom twice. A single syllable word can save you. How many of us have a faith like this?
 - 3. Most so-called believers in this country will lash out angrily if you so much as suggest that they ought to be more discriminating in the shows they watch and the music they listen to. The idea that we should even make sacrifices in our entertainment choices is downright offensive to us. Forget about telling a Christian that they should dress or speak a little differently. And yet we think we possess the conviction and the faith to give up our very lives for Him? If we really want to be a Christian who glorifies God, then we had better think about all of the gossiping we do at work, and all the porn we watch on our computers, and the fact that we feed a materialistic spirit, and that we make no sacrifices at all, ever. Face it: most of us would grovel and weep at the feet of our Muslim captors and recite whatever Koranic prayer they demanded.

Conclusion. If you can be a Christian like this, you can please God, be a great help to your church, and be blessed in Heaven for eternity. It will be all up to you to make the decision, then follow up with hard work.