

What Does it Mean to be a Christian Sermon Study Guide

Overview

The word Christian means “Christ-like”; meaning we are constantly trying to be like Christ; modelling his nature, his character. We value what he values and we practice what he practiced.

Being a Christian means being a disciple (we are never commanded or taught to simply believe there is a Jesus - this a lie of the world); a disciple is a follower.

Scripture

Titus 3:5; John 3:3,7; John 6:28-29; John 15:16; 1 John 2:4; Ephesians 15:16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 4:17–5:15; Col. 3:5–11

Examination

The Practical Side of Being a Christian

1. We are not a Christian by birth or association. Just because mom and dad were Christians doesn't mean we are.
2. We are not Christians simply because of our “religion” or morals
3. To be a Christian requires a new birth; John 3:3,7; Titus 3:5
4. Born again, but to what? Obedience (more later); 1 John 2:4
5. While we must accept Christ's forgiveness and Lordship (John 6:28-29) He must choose us; Ephesians 1:4-5; John 15:16
6. A Christian lives like a Christian. Take a few moments to examine what your worldview and your values are.
7. Faith in Christ moves us in to action
 - a. Faith without works is dead
 - b. Christ controls us, we no longer live for ourselves but for Him; 2 Corinthians. 5:14-15
 - c. This action is both positive and negative; things to do and things to avoid
 - d. Obedience is lived out every day; 1 John 2:4

Being a disciple is both an instantaneous event and a process of growing

- We are born again in an instant (see above)
- We grow and mature as we follow in obedience and learn
 - Following Jesus means putting aside all immorality and striving to obey God
 - There will be a battle with the flesh; Romans 7:13-25
 - There is constant correction, teaching, reminding, commanding and for certain PRACTICING; 1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 4:17–5:15; Col. 3:5–11; Galatians 5:16

Practical Application

- What are the practical ways at your church that you can demonstrate and live out your the Christian life?
- What keeps you from practicing your Christianity every day?
- What can\should you do about it?