

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch". Acts 11:26b.

There are a growing number of people today that have no idea of what a Christian is, and is supposed to believe. It is very clear that many feel they are, but are not really Christians at all. It has little to do with the various religious rites and beliefs. These are often hollow professions that stand for nothing in the eyes of God. Men serve idols, burn candles, repeat prayers and rely on works for salvation. All these religious exercises bring no peace, nor assurance of where the person thus believing will spend eternity. Putting it clearly, a Christian is a person who relies on Christ, who once and for all paid for sin on the cross. Putting your trust in Jesus as Saviour allows God to adopt you into His family. There are a number of things a genuine Christian should be. **(1.) SAVED:** *"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* Acts 2:47b. Clearly. Romans 10 :13 says *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* To be saved you must believe Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for you, receive Him as your Lord and Master, and walk with Him in faith believing. Placing faith in Christ puts you in the family of God. by faith and not by works. It is the Lord who does the saving as we trust His Son for our salvation. **(2). SURE:** *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."* I John 5:13 We preachers call it assurance. What God promises we are to believe because God cannot and would not lie. Trusting Christ as Saviour

guarantees a home in Heaven forever. What God accomplishes in a trusting heart will be forever. Praise God! Moving forward a Christian is **(3). SOUND:** *"This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."* Titus 1:13 The religious field of today is filled with many false doctrines. True Christians are in a class all by ourselves. We don't believe there are many gods, or the different man made ways of worship. Even some Protestant religions have gone astray, and Charismatic Contemporary Flu is wide spread. Islam is coming and atheism is growing. Pick a good, solid Bible believing church, whose members follow true Christianity, and the King James version is used to worship. Avoid the new emotional, high entertaining religion of false promises and beliefs. **(4). SURRENDERED:** *I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* Rom. 12:1. I discovered the surrender that one has to make in my military service. There is a great need for every Christian to be likewise surrendered to our spiritual commander in chief, Jesus Christ. Salvation is not a pass to keep us out of hell but a wonderful life getting us ready for heaven. I surrendered my life at age 15 to be totally in the service of the King. Be sure you have done the same. If God doesn't have all of you He will not use you for His glory. I love the song "All to Jesus I Surrender." Have you laid your all at His feet? **(5). SEPARATED:** *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord. and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you."* II Cor. 6:17. A Christian is not to be conformed to the world, but different from the sinners that surround us. You may be the only Bible your friends are reading. We are warned not to love the world, but rather to please our Saviour. God wants us to show a life far better in content than that which the world is living.

Don't sweat the peer pressure, but be willing to be different and pleasing to God. There is great joy in closely following Jesus. **(6). SERVING:** *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* I Cor. 15:58. True believers do not do religious acts to be saved, but serve the Lord who saves and keeps. We should never miss a church service, not even prayer meeting. We tithe, study our Bibles, and live for Him. Service is a matter of love and acts of obedience for all the Lord has done for us. Good children learn to please their parents. As sons of God, we have a wonderful opportunity to serve Him, and please Him. Don't call yourself a Christian if you are doing nothing for the Lord. Our lifetime of service will never equal the suffering of Christ, on the cross for us. **(7). SPIRIT FILLED:** *"Be filled with the Spirit."* Eph. 5:18b. When true believers receive Jesus Christ, we become indwelt by the Spirit of God. He works to bring conviction to every needy soul, and understanding to those who are ready to receive Christ. Many of you remember the urge of His power in the invitation after a sermon. In fact, all conviction is only made possible by the Word and the working of the Spirit. When we finally said yes to His plan of redemption, He entered our lives to dwell there. Every believer can be said to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a great truth to bring rejoicing. The fact that He dwells within us is wonderful. He is there to help through every trial and tribulation, and guide us through the tough days of our lives. His presence is as a guide and a Holy person dwelling within us. This indwelling person of the Godhead can hold us on the right path, convict us if we stray, and bring us back to full fellowship when we repent. As we study the Bible, His presence helps bring understanding to what we read. No wonder we are told not to grieve Him but to listen for His voice and follow His leading.

The Holy Spirit will deliver us safe into Heaven one day. **(8). SINGING:** *"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely."* Psa. 147:1. One day it was pointed out to me that no scriptures portray the angels singing. Looks like singing is something for blood bought believers to do, and do well. Over the years in evangelism I have led thousands in singing. We need to be reminded that this is a part of our worship. How often have I heard the song leader say, "come on folks, smile." Many happy singing voices together can be an experience for all believers to enjoy. Consider the words and meanings as you sing, and do so with joy. My evangelist son urges the crowd to sing from the bottom of their heart at the top of their lungs. Don't ever let a Power Point screen replace the old hymnbooks so blessed through the years. Tip back your head and sing your best for the Lord. **(9). SOUL WINNING:** *"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. "* Psm 126:5&6. Throughout the years Christianity has spread by means of witnessing saints. By life example and speech we are all accountable to tell others of Christ. We have experienced a new life in Christ, and are ordered by the Lord to share it with others. Good Christians are witnessing Christians. Weak Christians seldom tell others they need to be saved. If you do not witness, you are guilty of the lost condition of your friends and their blood is on your hands. The Holy Spirit within wants to use your voice, but you refuse to allow Him that opportunity. That is a serious failure in the eyes of God, who is disappointed in us. Please I beg you, go back over these Biblical truths and find those you really need to work on. Be the caliber Christian that will result in great rewards at Jesus feet. Most of the world still wonders, **What Is A Christian?** Let's show them!