

What Is A Christian?

Intro: Isaiah 62:2 “And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.” Acts 11:26 “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. 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.” Today we still use this new name, which the mouth of the Lord designated, to describe ourselves. Today I want to take a deeper look into the word “Christian” and see exactly what it means.

I. DEFINITION OF THE NAME CHRISTIAN.

- A. It simply means Christ-like.
- B. The Word Christ is a Greek word which has been transliterated into English (the Hebrew equivalent is Messiah). A translation of this is Anointed One.
- C. Therefore, the word Christian means like the Anointed One.

II. THOSE OFFICES OR WORKS ANOINTED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. Priest.

- 1. Exo. 30:30 “And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that *they* may minister unto me in the priest’s office.”
- 2. Lev. 16:32 “And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest’s office in his father’s stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, *even* the holy garments.”

B. Prophets.

- 1. Isa. 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound;*”
- 2. Eze. 16:9 “Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.”

C. Kings.

- 1. Jud. 9:8 “The trees went forth *on a time* to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us.”
- 2. Jud. 9:15 “And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, *then come and* put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.”

III. JESUS WAS THE ANOINTED ONE. HE WAS THE ONLY ONE ANOINTED ALL THREE.

A. Jesus was anointed as a Priest.

- 1. Heb. 2:17 “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”
- 2. Heb. 3:1 “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”
- 3. Heb. 4:14 “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.”

4. The work of a priest.
 - a. Heb. 5:1 “For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:”
 - b. Heb. 8:3 “For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.”
 - c. To offer gifts and sacrifices (for sin).
5. Heb. 9:11-14 “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹²Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. ¹³For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
6. Heb. 9:24-28 “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: ²⁵Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; ²⁶For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: ²⁸So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”
7. Heb. 10:10-12 “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. ¹¹And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ¹²But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;”

B. Jesus was anointed as a Prophet.

1. Prophet comes from the Greek word προφήτης (*prophetes*) which means to speak forth (*pro* meaning forth and *phemi* meaning to speak). The Hebrew word is *nabhi* meaning to boil forth.
2. Mat. 17:5 “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”
3. John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. ⁵⁰And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
4. Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

C. Jesus was anointed as King.

1. 1 Tim. 6:15 “Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;”
2. Rev. 17:14 “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.”
3. Rev. 19:16 “And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

4. 1 Cor. 15:25 “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”
5. Eph. 1:21-23 “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²²And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
6. cf. Premillennialism (denying that Jesus is presently King).

IV. WE ARE TO BE LIKE CHRIST, ANOINTED LIKE JESUS WAS.

A. We are to be Priest.

1. The work of a priest is to offer gifts and sacrifices.
 - a. Heb. 5:1 “For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:”
 - b. Heb. 8:3 “For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.”
2. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ...⁹But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”
 - a. In the Old Testament they offered sacrifices for sin.
 - b. We offer up spiritual sacrifices.
3. Heb. 13:15-16 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. ¹⁶But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
 - a. The fruit of the lips.
 - (1) Singing.
 - (a) We are commanded to sing in the New Testament.
 - i) Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”
 - ii) Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
 - iii) 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”
 - (b) We apply this in relation to the use of an instrument of music, and rightly so.
 - (c) But often we do not apply it to the use of our voices.
 - (2) Prayer.
 - (a) Christ taught us to pray.
 - i) Mat. 6:5-15 “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy

- Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.
⁷But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. ⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. ¹⁴For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
- ii) 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”
 - iii) 1 The. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”
- (b) This is one of the most neglected parts of the Christian’s life; cf. James 5:16 “Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
- (3) Our lips can do a great deal of good, but they can also do a great amount of evil; cf. Jam. 3:2-12
- (a) For good.
 - i) Put bits in the horses mouths.
 - ii) A small helm turn great ships.
 - (b) For evil.
 - i) A fire.
 - ii) A deadly poison.
- b. Do good.
- (1) Mat. 25:31-46
 - (2) 2 Cor. 9:8 “And *God is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:”
 - (3) Eph. 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
 - (4) Tit. 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
 - (5) Jam. 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

- (6) Col. 1:10 “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”
 - (7) Heb. 6:10 “For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”
 - (8) 3 John 5 “Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;”
- c. Communicate.
- (1) It is the word we get fellowship from.
 - (2) We have a fellowship through our giving and prayers, etc.
- B. We are to be Prophets.**
1. A prophet is simply a spokesman for God. Often telling the future was a part of their speaking.
 2. We are to speak for God.
 - a. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - b. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
 - c. 2 Tim. 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
 - d. Acts 8:4 “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”
 - e. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
 - f. Tit. 1:3 “But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;”
 - g. We should be like Jeremiah; Jer. 20:9 “Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.”
 3. What we are to teach.
 - a. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
 - b. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ²By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”
 - c. 1 Cor. 1:23 “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;”

- d. The Lordship of Christ.
 - (1) Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
 - (2) Acts 10:36 “The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)”
- e. Acts 8:35 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.”
- f. Acts 10:38-43 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: ⁴⁰Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; ⁴¹Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. ⁴³To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”

C. We are to be Kings and therefore reign with Christ.

1. Rom. 8:37 “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” Conquerors sit down to reign.
2. Rom. 5:17 “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”
3. 1 Cor. 4:8 “Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.”
4. 2 Tim. 2:12 “If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:” If we are not suffering for righteousness sake (Mat. 5:10 “Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”) then we are not reigning.
5. Rom. 6:12-14 “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”
 - a. We are to reign over sin.
 - (1) Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
 - (2) Letting God’s Word dwell in us; Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
 - b. Because we are reigning over sin we also reign over Satan and death.
 - (1) 1 Cor. 15:54-57 “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- (2) Phi. 1:21 “For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.”
- (3) Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
- (4) 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Conclusion: Are you a Christian? By man’s standard or by God’s?