

The Biblical Description of the Christian (3)

Introduction

A. What is a Christian? To some this question will cause the raising of the eyebrow or the curl of the lip. To others it simply means a reference to geography, or culture, or color of skin.

B. From the Biblical point of view a Christian is a most privileged person imaginable. He is one who has been brought into a living relationship with God.

I. In Relationship to God the Christian is an Adopted Child, Romans 8:15,16.

For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Observation: As adopted the Christian has all the rights and privileges of sonship.

II. In Relationship to Faith the Christian is a Believer, Acts 5:14; 16:31.

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved

Observation: This is the key: believe. Biblically this is to surrender, receive and to put the content of the belief into practice. We believe in a Person.

III. In Relationship to Knowledge the Christian is a Disciple, Luke 14:26,27.

If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.

Observation: As a disciple the Christian not only knows the Lord, he is not only a learner and follower – he chooses to live according to his Master's will.

IV. In Relationship to Character the Christian is a Saint, I Cor. 1:2.

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints, with all that in every place call upon the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's.

Observation: The term "saint" means "holy". This is our legal standing.

V. In Relationship to Fellowship the Christian is a Friend of God, John 15:15.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.

Observation: It is amazing but true – the Christian has been brought into living fellowship with God (I John 1:3,7) and is taught the plan of God.

VI. In Relationship to Obedience the Christian is a Servant, Ephesians 6:6.

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, hut as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Observation: All believers are legally God's servants. This is a high honor indeed. It is important that we choose to fully obey - and in particular from the heart!

VI. In Relationship to Progress the Christian is a Pilgrim, I Peter 2:11.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

Observation: A pilgrim has his citizenship in a foreign land. He is on the move - he is going home -.

VIII. In Relationship to Culture the Christian is a Stranger, I Peter 2:11.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

Observation: The Christian is not a part of this world system. The culture about us is a reflection, in the main, of the attitude of the citizenry.

IX. In Relationship to Influence the Christian is a Light, Matt. 5:14.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Observation: The Christian mirrors the Person and work of Jesus Christ Who described Himself as the Light of the World (John 8:12). A blemished mirror yields a poor reflection.

X. In Relationship to Responsibility the Christian is an Ambassador, II Cor. 5:20.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Observation: The believer represents God! We speak forth the divine invitation: "Be reconciled to God."

XI. In Relationship to Warfare the Christian is a Soldier, II Timothy 2:3.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Observation: The Christian is in a battle, he has been provided an armor and given weapons (Psalm 91:4; Ephesians 6:10-18). A soldier must fight. The desire to be a soldier is not enough. Our command is to "resist the enemy" (I Peter 5:8,9).

XIII. In Relationship to Expectation the Christian is an Heir, Romans 8:17*

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

Observation: To be an heir of God means to inherit all the fullness of the inheritance purchased for us by Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:4). The provision of the glorified state, the heavenly citizenship, rewards, the fullness of eternal fellowship all goes beyond our imagination.

Conclusion: If you have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior - this is all yours.

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