

# Christian or “Church of Christer?”

Acts 11:26

## Introduction:

- A. “Christian” is found three times in the Bible (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).
  - 1. A new name prophesied in Isaiah (62:2)
  - 2. A term kicked about loosely in our time – as an adjective and even as a noun.
- B. The church of Christ in the universal sense is made up of all Christians (Acts 2:47)
- C. Many local churches are made up of “Christians” and “Church of Chisters”
- D. What is the difference between a “Christian” and a “Church of Christer?”

## Discussion:

### I. A Christian (Acts 11:19-26)

- A. One who has heard the word or Jesus preached (vv. 19-20; Rom. 10:17).
- B. One who has believed the word (v. 21; cf. Mark 16:15-16).
- C. One who has “turned unto *the Lord*.” (v. 21)
  - 1. Turning involves repentance – a change of mind.
    - a. Change of mind away from sin (cf. Acts 8:22)
    - b. Change of mind toward God (Acts 20:21)
  - 2. Turning involves baptism.
    - a. Notice the parallel between Acts 3:19 and Acts 2:38.
    - b. One is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27)
- D. One who cleaves unto *the Lord* (v. 23).
  - 1. By being steadfast in worship (Acts 2:42).
  - 2. By walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
  - 3. By purity of life (Tit. 2:11,12)
  - 4. By being zealous of good works (Tit. 2:14; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58).
- E. One who is in the church – “Disciples” or “Christians” at Antioch made up the church (v. 26).
  - 1. In the church and loyal to the Lord – “unto *the Lord*” (vv. 21, 23)
  - 2. Added to the church is the same as added to the Lord (Acts 2:47; 5:14).

### II. A “Church of Christer”

- A. One who turned (converted) to the “Church of Christ” rather than the Lord.
  - 1. May have “inherited” his faith in “the right church” rather than learning it - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation
  - 2. May be impressed with the people, programs, or facilities of the church – rather than the gospel.
  - 3. May “joined the church” in order to unite the family or to please someone they loved.
- B. One who cleaves to the church rather than to Lord.
  - 1. More concerned with what the “Church of Christ” teaches than what the Bible teaches.
  - 2. Lets the church (elders, preacher, or members) do his studying and deciding for him.
    - a. Does not realize that honoring them for their works sake does not mean blind loyalty.
    - b. Does not realize it is Christ and not the church that determine sound doctrine (cf. 2 John 9)
- C. One who glorifies the church rather than God in the church (Eph. 3:21)
  - 1. Does not seem to realize that Christ is the Savior and the church is the saved.
  - 2. Does not seem to realize that Christ is the ruler and the church is the ruled.
  - 3. Does not seem to realize what it is that makes the church “of Christ.”

## Conclusion:

- A. A Christian must be member of the church of Christ (universal and local), but a follower of Christ.
- B. A “Church of Christer’s” faith is in the *church* of Christ rather than in the *doctrine* of Christ.