

Who Are Christians?

Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:15

Introduction:

- A. “Christian” means different things to different people.
 - 1. Ill. Little boy’s question about grandma’s being a Christian¹
 - 2. To most people it is anyone who professes to believe in Jesus.
- B. “Christian” is referenced three times in the Bible.
 - 1. Can learn a lot about Christians by noticing each immediate context.
 - 2. Can see that the term is too broad in its modern usage.
- C. What kind of people are these Christians as indicated by the context:

Discussion:

I. A Changed People

- A. They have believed and turned to the Lord (Acts 11:21)
 - 1. Notice some parallel passages (Acts 3:19; Acts 2:38)
 - 2. Did more than just believed – they turned (converted) by repentance and baptism.”
- B. They turned from sin to the will of God (1 Pet. 4:1-2)

II. An Assembling People

- A. The Christians at Antioch assembled (Acts 11:26).
- B. Harmonizes with Heb. 10:25)
- C. Christians cannot choose to stay home read Bible or listen to tape, Radio, or TV sermons.

III. A Bible Believing People

- A. The Scriptures were the basis of Paul’s appeal (Acts 26:27; cf. Acts 17:2)
- B. Christ are speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11)

IV. A Persuaded People

- A. Agrippa was almost persuaded - needed to be altogether.(Acts 26:28, 29)
- B. Early Christians (disciples) were made by persuasion (Acts 18:4; 28:23; Matt. 28:18-20)
 - 1. “One persuaded against his will is of the same opinion still.”
 - 2. Early Church did not use force or coercion – but persuasion to grow (cf. 2 Cor 5:11; 10:3-5)
 - 3. Early Christians were persuaded not allured by carnal gimmicks.

V. A “Strange” People

- A. “Strange” to those left behind in the world (1 Pet. 4:3,4)
- B. “Strange” to a selfish and self-serving society (Acts 11:27-30)
- C. “Strange” in their reaction to persecution (1 Pet. 4:12-16; cf. Matt. 5:11-12; Acts 5:41)

Conclusion:

- A. Are you almost persuaded to be a Christian? Why not altogether?
- B. Were you once a Christians, but been drawn back into the world? Need to be persuaded to return?

1. Little Johnny: "Is Grandma a Christian"?

Mother: "Yes, she is?"

Little Johnny: "We is Old Blue our hound dog a Christian?"

Mother: "Of course not, why do you ask?"

Little Johnny: "Well he has a long face and is always barking like Grandma?"