

Who Is a Christian?

Acts 11:19-26

Introduction:

- A. People answer this question differently?
 - 1. To some it is anyone who generally embraces “Christian principles.”
 - 2. To some it an adherent to any “Christian denomination.”
 - 3. To media it is one of the warring factions in many religious wars.
- B. The Bible answers it in a rather simple manner.
 - 1. Isaiah had prophesied a “new name” after the conversion of the gentiles (Isa. 62:2)
 - 2. The term used first shortly after the first gentiles were converted (Acts 11:26).
 - 3. The term appears two other times in the Bible (Acts 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).
- C. Let us answer our question by looking at our text.

Discussion:

- I. One Who Has Heard the Word (v. 19).**
 - A. To preach the word is to preach Christ Jesus.(v. 20)
 - B. Phillip preaches Christ Jesus (Acts 8:5, 35)
 - C. Timothy was the “preach the word.” (2 Tim. 4:1,2).
- II. One Who Has Believed the Word (v. 21).**
 - A. Faith is produced by hearing the word (Rom. 10:8, 17).
 - B. One must believe the gospel to be saved (Mark 16:15-16).
 - 1. Samaritans heard and believed Philip’s preaching (Acts 8:12).
 - 2. Corinthians heard and believed Paul’s preaching (Acts 18:8).
- III. One Who Has “Turned unto the Lord.” (v. 21)**
 - A. Turning involves repentance – a change of mind.
 - 1. Change of mind away from sin (cf. Acts 8:22)
 - 2. Change of mind toward God (Acts 20:21)
 - B. Turning involves baptism.
 - 1. Notice the parallel between Acts 3:19 and Acts 2:38.
 - 2. One is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27)
- IV. One Who Cleaves to the Lord (v. 23).**
 - A. One cleaves to the Lord by abiding in him (John 15:1-8).
 - B. One cleaves by being steadfast in worship (Acts 2:42).
 - C. One cleaves by walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
 - D. One cleaves by purity of life (Tit. 2:11,12)
 - E. One cleaves by being ready unto every good work (Tit. 2:14; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58).
- V. One Who Is in the Church (v. 26).**
 - A. “Disciples” or “Christians” at Antioch made up the church (v. 26).
 - B. Members of the church also called “saints” (1 Cor. 1:1,2)
 - C. Members also referred to as “brethren” (2 Cor. 8:11; Gal. 6:1).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you a Christian? Truly a Christian? (Review points)
- B. Why not become a Christian today?