

What It Means to be a Christian

“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26)

I. We Must Receive Christ

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (II Cor. 5:17)

- To become a christian means receiving Christ. It includes repenting, believing, and forsaking our sins, Jesus said, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3,5).
- Receiving Christ means being in him. “Old things are passed away” (II Cor 5:17). Old friends, habits, and sinful pursuits drop off.
- In Christ “all things are become new” (v17). We receive a new life, faith, hope, love, joy, and peace.

II. We Must Resemble Christ

“leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps” (I Peter 2:21).

- As Christians we should emulate Christ in our thinking, seeing, hearing, speaking, doing, and going.
- We should look for the positive and good, be kind, compassionate, and understanding(Col. 3:12,13)
- As Christians we should work with diligence and purpose, setting our affections on things above(Col. 3:1,2).

III. We Must Represent Christ

“And ye shall be witnesses unto me” (Acts 1:8)

- As Christians, we are to represent Christ at home, school, work, and everywhere. We should seek to exemplify him in deed and conversation.
- Missionaries are to represent Christ on foreign fields. They speak and witness for him. We should do the same here at home.
- We can represent Christ by giving words of encouragement, good deeds, and witnessing to the unsaved about him(Isa. 43:10).

IV. We Shall Reign with Christ

“And so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thess. 4:17)

- Those who receive Christ, resemble Christ, represent Christ, shall also reign with Christ.
- The scripture says, “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:4)
- Being a Christian means that we are in Christ, like Christ, for Christ, and with Christ for now and through-out eternity.