

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

1. A **SAINT** 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Peter 1:15; Hebrews 13:12

Be Holy – set apart for the exclusive use of God.

A true Christian loves God, loves the Bible, loves prayer and hates sin. "... without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12: 14

2. A **FREE MAN** 1 John 3:8; Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 1:4; Hebrews 2:14-15

The Word of God is the Truth (John 17:17) that sets us free (John 8:32). A Christian is one who has surrendered to the Word of God (James 1:21-25) and received the freedom that God gives (John 8:36).

"Freedom is what we have – Christ has set us free: Stand then as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again". Galatians 5:1 (see also Ezekiel 34:27)

3. A **SERVANT** Matthew 20:26-28; Mark 9:35; John 13:15; Luke 17:10

Jesus came to serve – to serve God and to serve others. We are to follow His example and be concerned above all else with meeting the needs of others (1 John 3:18). (See also Matthew 25:40; Luke 12:47-48; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

4. An **ATHLETE**

Keep yourself in training for a Godly life. Do Spiritual exercises (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Rid yourself of all unnecessary weight, free yourself from all known sin, throw aside every encumbrance and run with determination and endurance (Hebrews 12:1). Obey the rules (2 Timothy 2:5). Run to win, submit to strict discipline, run straight, harden our body and control your movements (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Run your best, run the full distance (2 Timothy 4:7).

"Run in such a way as to get the prize ... a crown that will last forever." 1 Corinthians 9: 24-25

5. A **SOLDIER** 2 Timothy 2:3-4

We have a spiritual enemy to fight (Ephesians 6:12-13). We have a spiritual war to win (Romans 13:12-14). We have spiritual weapons that are powerful to the destroying of strongholds, to the destroying of false arguments, and to the pulling down of every proud obstacle raised against the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:35). Therefore: Be disciplined (2 Timothy 2:3); be motivated (Acts 20:24); be obedient (1 Timothy 6:14); be prepared (Ephesians 6:10-12); be alert (1 Peter 5:8-9); use the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17), the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12); to spread the truth that sets people free (John 8:32); fight evil (Romans 12:21); resist the devil (James 4:7); bind the powers of evil (Matthew 18:18); enforce the victory of the Cross (Colossians 2:15); attack the strongholds of the enemy (2 Corinthians 10:4); storm the gates of hell (Matthew 16:18-19); set the prisoners free (Isaiah 61:1); win the victory in Jesus Name (1 Corinthians 15:57).

"We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Romans 8:37

6. A **WORKER** Matthew 20:1-16

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As workers for the Lord (Colossians 3:23), we are to always do our best (2 Timothy 2:15), wholeheartedly (Luke 9:62) and everything we do is to be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:14).

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (See also Hebrews 5:10-11 and Matthew 6:33)

7. A **VESSEL** 2 Corinthians 4:7

Don't be polluted with wrong thoughts and wrong desires (Col 3:8). You wouldn't want even one drop of poison, infection or sewerage in your water supply or water bottle! So don't tolerate sin in your life. Sin is as dangerous as poison and an unexploded bomb. Sin is a cancer that rots away our faith and morals. Don't be polluted by sin.

Don't be empty (Ephesians 3:17-19)

Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18); (Galatians 5:22 and Matthew 5:8).

"So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that ...you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-19

8. A **DISCIPLE**

A disciple is one who gives up everything (Luke 14:33); denies himself (Matthew 16:24); takes up his Cross (Mark 8:34) and follows the example of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21). It is a life characterised by dedication to the Word of God (John 8:31) and love for the people of God (John 8:34).

“Anyone who does not carry his Cross and follow Me cannot be my Disciple.” Luke 14: 27

9. A **PILGRIM**

People with a call, people of persistence, travellers - seeking after the best that God has for them, people with a vision who proclaim their faith (Hebrews 11: 8-16).

Strangers to this world, (1 Peter 2:11) refugees (1 Peter 1:1), foreigners.

We don't belong to the world (John 15:18-19) we are just passing through. We belong to a Heavenly country and as pilgrims we must press on towards it, forsaking the world. Don't look back. Never turn back (Hebrews 11:13-16). We are looking towards something far better.

“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

10. A **FARMER** Matthew 21:28-32

As a Christian you are like a farmer in God's vineyard (Matthew 20:1). We must sow (John 4:37) the seed of the Gospel (Mark 4:14) which will accomplish (Isaiah 55:11) the task of Salvation (Romans 1:16). We must plough up the hard ground and water the soil with much prayer (1 Corinthians 3:8) and reap the harvest (John 4:38). Remember that the person who sows few seeds will have a small crop; the one who sows many seeds will have a large crop (2 Cor 9:6). (See also Prov 10:5)

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matt 9:37-38

11. The **SALT OF THE EARTH** Matthew 5:13

Salt **preserves** – we should preserve that which is holy, good and right.

Salt **heals** – we should heal the brokenhearted with encouragement, comfort, love in action and prayer.

Salt **melts** – we should melt the cold hearts with the warmth of our love and enthusiasm of our faith.

Salt **creates thirst** – we should make people thirst for spiritual life in Jesus - the living Waters (John 7:37-38).

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men." Matthew 5:13

12. The **LIGHT OF THE WORLD** Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12)

Jesus is in the believer (Colossians 1:27)

We are now light for the world (Matthew 5:14-16)

So SHINE for Jesus!

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl ... In the same way let your light shine before men that they might see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

From all these Scriptural pictures of what a Christian should be we should see the inadequacy of the shallow, one dimensional, superficial concepts of "just believe", "just pray this prayer", "just open the door of your heart" brand of half-hearted, lukewarm, namby-pamby, wishy-washy, wimpish, weak and weedy churchianity!

Any definition of a Christian must include: action, devotion, dedication, persistence, sacrifice and service.

"But you, man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith." 1 Timothy 6: 11-12



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