

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

PART 1 RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP?

- I. Christianity is a relationship and not a religion
 - A. Most people view Christianity as a religion and for the understanding of Christendom they are correct.
 - B. Biblical Christianity is not a religion but a relationship.
- II. Christian comes from two Greek words
Christos (Messiah or Christ) and *ianos* (follower of *or* like)

Acts 11:26

I Peter 4:15-16

Acts 26:28
 - * Paul shares his testimony in vss. 1-23
 - * vs. 4 - "My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first..."
 - * vs. 16 - "...to make thee a minister ('a subordinate acting under another's direction') and a witness" (Greek word '*martus*')
 - * vs. 20 - "...do works meet for repentance"
- III. Christianity as a relationship
 - A. We are children of God

John 1:12; I John 3:1, 10
 - B. The unsaved are children of the devil

I John 3:10
 - C. We can know we are a child of God and have eternal life

I John 5:13
 - D. How do we know we have eternal life or not
 - 1) Has eternal life - I John 5:12a
 - 2) Does not have eternal life - I John 5:12b

IV. Are you a Christian?

- 1) Are you: Saved; Born Again; Regenerated; Reconciled; Sanctified; Justified; Child of God, etc.

Saved - Romans 10:9-13

"deliverance from sin and from wrath of God as the ultimate fate which awaits the sinner" *

Justification - Rom. 3:21-4:25

"That action in a lawcourt whereby the judge upholds the case of one party ...finds for the defendant, this action has the force of 'acquittal'. The person justified is described as 'just,' 'righteous,' not as a description of moral character but as a statement of his status before the court..." *

"To pronounce, accept, and treat as just, i.e., as, on the one hand, not penally liable, and, on the other, entitled to all the privileges due to those who have kept the law." **

Reconciliation - Romans 5:10-11

"A change of personal relations between God and man" **

Redemption - 1 Peter 1:18-19

"Though closely allied to salvation, redemption is more specific, for it denotes the means by which salvation is achieved, namely, by the payment of a ransom" **

Born again - John 3:3

same as regeneration * **

Regeneration - Titus 3:5

"is the 'birth' by which this work of new creation is begun..." **

Sanctification - 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23

"Is the 'growth' whereby it (the new creation) continues" **

"It is in the first place, a work of God, more specifically a work of the Holy Spirit, both as a one time act, valid for all time, imputing and imparting holiness, and as an ongoing, progressive work. In the latter sense, it also becomes a human work." *

* New Dictionary of Theology

** Baker's Dictionary of Theology

PART 2 REPENTANCE AND LORDSHIP?

I. How do we get the Son?

A. Must understand and believe:

- 1) Sin separates us from God and we can't pay the penalty

Isaiah 59: 1, 2
Romans 3:20, 23
Isaiah 64: 6
Galatians 3:10
Romans 6:23
Ephesians 2:8-9
Titus 3:5

- 2) Jesus paid our penalty by His death, burial, and resurrection
Romans 5:8; Galatians 3:13, 16-18, 21-22; Romans 10:9-10

- 3) We need to repent of our sins

Luke 13:1-5; Luke 24:47
Mark 1:14-15 (Matt. 21:28-32)
Matthew 12:41 (Jonah 3)
Intellect - vs. 4 - 5a
Emotions - vs. 5b - 6
Will - vs. 10
Acts 20:20-21(1 Thessalonians 1:9)
II Cor. 7:10
Isaiah 55:6-7

- 4) Receive Jesus as Lord and Savior

Savior is used 24 times in the N.T.
God as Savior - 8 times
Lord and Savior - 6 times
God & Savior - 2 times
Prince & Savior - 1 time
Savior - **ONLY** 7 TIMES

Lord is used 711 times in the N.T. (KJV)

John 1:12
Romans 10:13
Acts 2:36
Mark 10:42 (Acts 19:16 "overcome", I Peter 5:3)
Luke 22:25
II Cor. 4:1-5
Isaiah 55:6-7
Mark 8:34 - 36