

What is a Christian?

A Christian is a partisan (follower)

Christ-ian

- Isra-el: strives with God...
- Israel-ite: native, descendant of Jacob
- Cass-ian: partisan of Cassius
- Herod-ian: partisan of Herod
- Christ-ian: belonging to Christ
 - Name assumes the person was a follower / adherent of Christ / loyal to Him

Classical contexts

- Tacitus speaks of Christians of AD 64: scapegoats of Nero's crime.
- Pliny, letter to Trajan, AD 110-112, describes his actions against Christians of Bithynia.
- Today our question gets many answers.

What is a Christian?

- Short answer: A life thru which Christ lives

Ga.2:20

- a. *No longer I*: his old evil self (Saul) was crucified with Christ (19)
- b. *Christ lives in me* (20)
- c. *Live by faith*: basis of new life (Gal.3:11)

Specifics include –

I. A Disciple Who Obeyes as Jesus Did

Mark 1:4

Jesus is exalted above the baptizer, Mk.1:7-8
(a greater baptism, Mt.28:19)

Sinless, Son of God, Mk.1:9-11

- Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Mt.3:15)
- We are baptized for forgiveness (Ac.2:38) and fellowship “with Him”
 - Crucified (Ro.6:6)
 - Died (Ro.6:8)
 - Buried (Ro.6:4)
 - Raised (Ro.6:4)
 - Heirs (Ro.8:17)
 - Glorified (Ro.8:17)
 - Reign, 2 Tim.2:12

I. A Disciple Who Obeys as Jesus Did

**II. A Mind Through
Which Jesus Thinks**

Mk.1:12-13 –

- Desert (as Israel)
- 40 days (Israel: 40 years, unbelief, with food)
- Without sin, Hb.4:15

Christ works through a mind

1. Free of satanic influence, Mk.5:15; 8:33
2. Of supreme love for God, Mk.12:30

I. A Disciple Who Obeys as Jesus Did

II. A Mind Through Which Jesus Thinks

**III. A Voice Through
Which Jesus Speaks**

- Jn.10:3-4, sheep know
- Jn.10:5, avoid voice of strangers
- Hb.3:7, do not harden hearts
 - Calls sinners to repentance, Mk.2:17
 - Glorifies God, Lk.7:11...16
 - How much more in spiritual resurrection?
(Ro.6)

I. A Disciple Who Obeys as Jesus Did

II. A Mind Through Which Jesus Thinks

III. A Voice Through Which Jesus Speaks

**IV. An Eye Through
Which Jesus Sees**

Lord's eyes saw people in need

Mk.2:5, saw their faith

Mk.2:9, answers their doubts

Mk.2:10-11, gave them hope

Jesus sees through eyes that . . .

- Truly see (perceive), Mk.8:18
- See truly (honest), Lk.6:41-42
 - ▶ Introspection

“I’m not the man I ought to be,
but I’m not the man I used to be.
And, by the grace of God, I’m not
the man I’m going to be.”

I. A Disciple Who Obeys as Jesus Did

II. A Mind Through Which Jesus Thinks

III. A Voice Through Which Jesus Speaks

IV. An Eye Through Which Jesus Sees

**V. An Ear Through
Which Jesus Hears**

Jesus heard . . .

People in error; He corrected them, Mk.2:17

Proud disciples; He humbled them, Mk.9:33-37

- Jesus said nothing on the road
- Jesus heard their every word
- Jesus confronted their 'greatness' issues (selfish pride)
 - To be first, **be last**
 - To be greatest, **be a servant**
- One child outranks grown men

Jesus works through active ears, Mk.4:9

Some have ears to receive it, then. . .

1. Forget, Gn.41:9. Ja.1:24

2. Get distracted, Lk.10:40

3. Get too busy, 1 K.20:40

4. Bear fruit, Mk.4:20

Three occurrences of 'Christian' implies obedience

- Ac.11:19, preached word; 21, believed / turned... 26, church...disciples...Christians
- Ac.26:28, almost persuaded
 - Synonyms: disciples, saints, believers, church, those who call upon the name of the Lord, etc.
- 1 Pt.4:16, worth suffering for
 - Ac.2:14...38 (1 Pt.3:21)
 - Christians were concerned with His Name, Ac.4:12
 - Loyal to new Master, Ro.6:16

Four ways

- Life of Christian can be described in four ways: a journey, battle, pilgrimage, race
 - Life is a journey that must be completed...
 - ...a battle that must be waged...
 - ...a pilgrimage that must be concluded...
 - ...a race that must be won...

A real Christian

A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for one whom he has never seen. Talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see. He expects to go to heaven on the Virtue of another, empties himself in order that he might be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, and goes down in order to get up. He is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, and gives away so he can keep. He sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passes knowledge'