



FOLLOWING JESUS • IN COMMUNITY • FOR OTHERS

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Followers of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” in Antioch ([Acts 11:26](#)) because their behavior, activity, and speech were like Christ. The word “Christian” literally means, “belonging to the party of Christ” or a “follower of Christ.”

Unfortunately over time, the word “Christian” has lost a great deal of its significance and is often used of someone who is religious or has high moral values but who may or may not be a true follower of Jesus Christ. Many people who do not believe and trust in Jesus Christ consider themselves Christians simply because they go to church or they live in a “Christian” nation or are from a Christian family. While things like going to church, serving those less fortunate, being a good person are all good works, they do not in themselves make a person a Christian. God intended that identity with Jesus Christ mean so much more.

A true Christian is someone who has realized that s/he is a sinner in need of a Savior, has repented of sin and submitted his/her life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This decision is evidenced in his/her desires, daily life, and choices (although imperfectly).

What does a Christ-follower believe?

- Jesus (as revealed in the Bible) is God, holy and perfect
- Sinless Jesus died on the cross taking the punishment for our sins
- Jesus died, was buried and rose again proving that God accepted His sacrifice for sin
- Jesus is the only way to be made right with a holy and just God
- Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone

How does a Christ-follower strive to live?

As a new creation having been born again and having entered into a saving relationship with his/her Creator and Owner, the Christ-follower will:

- have a love for God
- confess and repent of sin
- desire and takes steps to grow in his/her relationship with Jesus
- seek to be obedient to God and grow to be more like Jesus
- be devoted to God’s glory
- have increasing power over sin

*What a Christian is **not**:*

- Perfect, never sinning, always obedient (as Christ-followers, we will continue to struggle with sin in this life but the bent of our heart is toward God and His will)
- Proud, thinking they are better than other “sinners”
- Boastful as if they deserved or earned salvation
- One who believes that they can earn God’s love or salvation by doing good works
- Someone who only intellectually believes in Jesus (must be a surrendering of your life to Jesus as Lord and boss)
- A person who willfully continues in sin even after being convicted of the sin

Basic steps of salvation that we shared with the students:

ABC’s of Salvation—A believer must

- A=**Admit** (own up to) that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself. **Ask** God to forgive you and to be your Savior.
- B= **Believe** that Jesus, God’s Son, died on the cross for your sins, was buried, and rose again for your sins. He is the only way back to God.
- C= **Come** to Jesus for forgiveness and new life. **Call** on Him.

Ways to grow in Christ:

Spiritual Growth--GROW

- G Go to church
- R Read my Bible and pray
- O Obey God's Word and confess sin
- W Witness to others

TRUTHS TAUGHT in STUDIO AT DAY CAMP 2016

The Truth About God

- God is our loving Creator and owner
- God is holy, perfectly perfect
- God is our just judge and must punish sin
- God created man to love Him, to enjoy Him and to obey Him

The Truth About Me

- I am born a helpless sinner and I choose to sin
- Sin is anything that I think, say or do that disobeys God
- My sin separates me from our loving God
- I deserve punishment and eternal separation from a Holy God
- I need to be made right with God

The Truth About Jesus

- Jesus is God
- Jesus is holy, perfectly perfect
- Jesus chose to come to earth and lived a perfect sinless life
- Jesus willingly died on a cross to take the punishment for our sins
- Jesus died, was buried and rose again.

- Jesus now lives in heaven with God
- Jesus provided the one and only way for us to be forgiven and made right with God

The Truth About a Believer in Jesus

A true believer in Jesus must

- be sorry for their sins and turn from them (repent)
- believe and trust in Jesus as the only way to be forgiven of sins and be made right with God
- choose to make Jesus the leader of their life

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