

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN

By Keith Greer

“And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” {Acts 11:26} The word **Christian** appears in only three Scripture passages—*Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, and 1 Peter 4:16*. Yet, many people, if asked, would say they are Christians. How can we be sure? Let's consider some things people may be, while still not being true Christians.

Religious. *“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious.’” {Acts 17:22}* The Athenians were very religious—they worshipped many gods. Paul taught them about the “unknown God” whom they were worshipping in ignorance. Many people attend church, read their Bibles, and believe in God; does that make them Christians? One can be religious but still not be a Bible Christian.

A Good Man. *“A devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.” {Acts 10:2}* Cornelius was a very good man, with good character. Yet, God arranged for Peter to preach to him. *“Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.” {Acts 10:5,6}* This good man needed salvation, and Peter came to tell him how to obtain it. Many people today are very good people, but that, in and of itself, does not make them Christians.

A Believer. *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!” {James 2:19}* Many people in the world are believers—but what do they believe? The Muslim believes in Allah and Mohammed. The Jew believes in the Old Testament and that he is part of God's chosen people. The Roman Catholic believes that the pope is God on earth. And there are many people who believe in God but who are not, in any way, religious. People must believe, but simply believing does not make them true Christians.

Penitent. *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” {Acts 17:30}* Many people are penitent, but of what are they repenting? Some are sorry they've made choices that brought their families hardship. Others are sorry they got caught and now have to suffer the consequences of their actions. People can be sorry for the sins in their lives; and that is wonderful, but what they do about it is more important. Please read *2 Corinthians 7:10,11*.

Baptized. *“Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” {Colossians 2:12}* Being baptized is important, but knowing the reason why you are being baptized is equally important. Only those who are baptized for the remission of their sins are baptized for the right reason, and these are Christians. *{Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3,4}*

Worship God. *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” {Matthew 15:8,9}* Many people worship God – but do they worship Him in spirit and in truth? *(John 4:24)*

True Bible Christians do all of these things for the right reasons and in the right manner. We could have added one more thing that true Christians must do is live our lives that demonstrate our relationship with Christ. Please read, *Matthew 5:13-16; Titus 2:11-14; John 14:15*. Never forget we might be the only glimpse the world might ever see of a Christian! Dear reader, are you absolutely sure you’re a Christian? ***