

What is a Christian?

Big Idea

A Christian is someone who has been saved by Jesus, belongs to Jesus, and is being made like Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

1. A Christian Is Not...

Not simply someone who:

- Goes to church
- Tries to be a good, moral person
- Grew up in a “Christian home” or “Christian nation”

Good works and religion cannot save us:

- “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy...” (Titus 3:5)

A Christian is more than a label, habit, or culture.

2. A Christian Is...

- Someone who has been born again by God (John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23)
- Saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- A person who belongs to Christ and follows Him (Acts 11:26)
- A child of God with new life in Christ (John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

At the core, a Christian is united to Jesus by faith.

3. What Was Jesus Like? (Our Pattern)

From the Gospels and Philippians 2:5–11, Jesus was:

- Compassionate – moved by the needs of people (Matthew 9:36; 14:14)
- Servant-hearted & humble – “did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45)
- Obedient to the Father – “not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39)
- Merciful & forgiving – “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34)
- Loving & relational – deeply loved His friends (John 11:5; 13:23)
- Truthful – “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6)
- Strong yet meek; patient – full of authority and yet gentle (Matthew 11:29; Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus is the blueprint for what a Christian should become.

What is a Christian?

4. Christian Attributes & Character

(The Fruit the Spirit Grows in Us)

Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22–23

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience (long-suffering)
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control



Christian Character (from Scripture)

- Love – Greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37–39)
- Humility & servanthood – Following Christ’s example (Philippians 2:5–7)
- Integrity & honesty – Walking in truth (Proverbs 11:3)
- Perseverance – Growing through trials (James 1:2–4)
- Obedience – “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15)

These traits are evidence of the Spirit’s work in a Christian’s life.

5. So, What Is a Christian?

A Christian is someone who has been saved by Jesus, belongs to Jesus, and is being made like Jesus.

- Belonging – to Christ
- Behaving – increasingly like Christ
- Becoming – more Christ-like by the Spirit’s power

6. Weekly Challenge

1. Choose ONE Christ-like attribute to focus on this week

- Examples: compassion, patience, humility, integrity, gentleness, self-control.

2. Pray daily:

- “Holy Spirit, make me more like Jesus in this area today.”



What is a Christian?

3. Take ONE concrete step that expresses that attribute:

- Compassion: visit or call someone who is struggling.
- Patience: pause and pray before responding when frustrated.
- Integrity: tell the truth where it would be easier to hide or exaggerate.
- Servanthood: quietly serve someone at home, work, or church without seeking credit.

. . . .
. . . .
. . . .
. . . .
. . . .
. . . .

Suggested Memory Verse:

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”

– Philippians 2:5 (KJV)

. . . .
. . . .
. . . .
. . . .
. . . .
. . . .