



# The Voice Of Truth

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## Hillcrest church of Christ

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### What Is A Christian?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Those who live for the Lord are called by many different terms in the scriptures: brethren, saints, disciples, and children of God. Perhaps no term denotes one who is "of Christ" or belongs to Christ, better than the term "Christian". The term Christian appears three times in the New Testament (**1 Peter 4:16; Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28**). But, "What Is A Christian?"

A Christian is a disciple of Christ (**Acts 11:26**). A disciple is a learner (**2 Timothy 2:15**). God's people were always required to learn God's ways (**Deuteronomy 5:1; 31:12**). Christ tells His disciples to be learners of God's word (**Matthew 11:29**). Paul tells us to learn in what is written (**1 Corinthians 4:6**). Christianity is a taught religion (**John 6:44-45; Matthew 28:18-20**). One does not become a Christian through dreams or visions (**John 8:30-32**) or by direct working of the Holy Spirit. If conversion is produced by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit on the sinner, then

obviously men do not need a Bible. If men can be converted without the Bible, then they can be converted without faith (**Romans 10:17**). The process of becoming and being a Christian is a learning process (**2 Peter 3:18**).

What is a Christian? He is a follower of Christ! Jesus left an example of life to be followed (**1 Peter 2:21**). Christians are "To walk, even as he walked," (**1 John 2:6**). The life Christ lived is not just to be admired, talked about, or sung about, but is to be followed. Christ left us example in all things: obedience (**John 4:34; Hebrews 5:9**); purity (**1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 1:9; 1 John 3:3; Romans 12:9**). Jesus is our example in serving others (**Matthew 20:28**), in forgiving others (**Colossians 3:13**), in the work of saving souls (**Luke 19:10**), and in His love for His fellowman (**John 13:34**).

What is a Christian? A Christian is one who is not ashamed (**1 Peter 4:16**). He is not

ashamed of the Lord's word "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (**Mark 8:38**). He is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (**Romans 1:16**). I'm so afraid that the church today is stepping back from what Paul said in Romans 1:16. Today we are finding people that are ashamed of it. And someone will say, "Not me, I'm not ashamed of it." Why aren't you living by the truth? Why aren't you practicing truth? One cannot be saved if he/she is ashamed of Christ. To be ashamed of the gospel is to be ashamed of God, Who is the Author of it. He is not ashamed to be part of the religious minority "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <sup>14</sup>Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

The Christian is one who glorifies God "Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (**1 Peter 4:16**). He is not ashamed for the world to know where he stands and for what he stands. The song "I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord," expresses the true sentiment of the Christian.

### *Points To Ponder...*

Never be ashamed to admit you were wrong. It is just another way of saying you're wiser today than you were yesterday.

### **THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING**

He made no mistakes and took no wrong roads;

He never rumbled the ball;

He never went down beneath the load.

He lost no hard fights in defense of the right;

He never bled with his back to the wall.

He never fell faint in his climb to the light;

He simply did nothing at all.

So death came nigh, for life slipped away,

And he feared for the Judgment Hall.

When they asked him why, he said with sigh:

"I simply did nothing at all."

So, God will pardon your blunders, my friend,

And regard with pity your fall.

But the one big sin that surely means Hell,

Is simply to do nothing at all.

—author unknown—