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## What Is A Christian?

John 1:12

love like Jesus



The word “Christian” gets used lots of ways...

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# The word “Christian” gets used lots of ways...

- Religious preference

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# The word “Christian” gets used lots of ways...

- Religious preference
- Cultural background

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# The word “Christian” gets used lots of ways...

- Religious preference
- Cultural background
- Moral category

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# The word “Christian” gets used lots of ways...

- Religious preference
- Cultural background
- Moral category
- Political label

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# What actually makes someone a Christian?

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# John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

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# John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

## **Receive Him → Become God's Child**

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# The story we've entered

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# Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

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# Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

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Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death...

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# John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only  
Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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# Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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## 2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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# Colossians 2:14

...by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

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# Propitiation

The penalty for sin was paid.

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# Redemption

Jesus bought us back.

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# Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

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# How we enter the story

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# Mark 1:15

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

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# Romans 10:9

Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

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*πίστις*

pistis

Faith – Belief - Trust

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*πίστις*

pistis

Not just believing the chair exists  
But putting your weight on it

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# John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

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James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

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# What we receive

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# John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

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John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

**Eternal life is knowing Jesus.**

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# Justification

God declares you righteous. Not because you cleaned yourself up, but because Christ's perfect record is credited to your account.

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# Regeneration

You're given a new nature. The Bible calls you a new creation.

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## 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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# Security

The Spirit is sealed in every believer. God holds onto you.

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# Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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# Who we've become

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# Children of the Father

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# Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

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# 1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

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# Sheep of the Shepherd

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John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

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# John 10:27-28

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

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# Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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# Where this is all going

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# Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He  
will dwell with them, and they will be his people,  
and God himself will be with them as their God.”

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# Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

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# Revelation 21:5a

And he who was seated on the throne said,  
"Behold, I am making all things new."

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Not “all new things.”

All things new!

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## 1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

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# What now?

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# John 15:4-5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

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We stay connected through:

Scripture

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love like Jesus

We stay connected through:

Scripture

Prayer

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We stay connected through:

Scripture

Prayer

The Church

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# What is a Christian?

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A Christian is someone who has received Jesus—and in receiving him, has received everything.

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# Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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