

So You Think You Are A Christian?

I asked this question because there seems to be so many variations of what people think a Christian is. Some think it's being a Catholic, some an Anglican, some a Pentecostal. My next door neighbour claims to be a Christian without knowing anything, maybe because he lives in a so called Christian country. I found myself asking him the question, "So you think you are a Christian?" And when he said, "Yes", I just had to ask, "What kind of Christian are you?" He had no answer!!

I have spoken to people that can recite the bible from front to back. I have spoken to those who believe they are Charismatic, Pentecostal, Spirit-filled believers and yet I'm not convinced that they understand what they are saying. There are those who are so full of theology they can't see faith and what faith should mean to them.

I feel that the majority of Christians have been confused; and confusion is not of God. They are led to believe and follow all sorts of things which are not scripture or scriptural, going from the very blatant to the very subtle.

What does it mean to be Christian? Well most of us know that Jesus said, "You must be born again." (John 3:7) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) So Jesus is the answer to the first step. He said, "I have come that you might have new life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) I find that a lot of Christians think they have that new life but they miss the bit that says ABUNDANTLY.

You do not only become Christians but John 1:12 says, "As many as received Him, to them He gave power to become sons of God, even to those who believe in His Name." So now we know we are to become sons of God we now need to get the revelation of what that means.

Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33) What is the Kingdom of God? We read in the Lord's prayer that it says, "Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit you cannot enter the Kingdom of God", so we know the Kingdom will come to earth and we know we can enter the Kingdom of God.

OK, so where is this Kingdom to be found? Well, in Luke 17:20&21 it says, "The Kingdom of God does not come with observations, nor will they say see here, or see there. For indeed the Kingdom of God is within."

When we know who we are in Christ and what we are, by revelation, and not by head knowledge; revelation through the Holy Spirit that only He can give because He is the Teacher, and not by learning from books - yes, people can help us in our walk but can't do it for us - the scriptures say, "*Knowing* the truth will set you free." I believe that the knowing has to come by revelation and is part of knowing who we are in Christ Jesus.

Jesus gave His life as a sacrifice. His blood was given to set us free. God made a covenant with us and that covenant is sealed in Jesus blood. What does this mean in simple words? Well, as I understand, if I keep my part of the agreement the Father will keep His and the rest will be added unto me and I will start walking in His blessings. I find it hard to see any group or so called church moving in these blessings. My questions are "Why?" "What is

wrong?" "Why do we not see the things that we read about?" Is it because most of us are not keeping the covenant promise that we are not walking in those blessings? Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice." If you can't hear His voice whose sheep are you? Jesus said that HE will build His church. HIS church is made of living stones. CHURCH is who we are and not where we go to. If you remember the covenant we have, it is a New Covenant sealed in His blood but if you are honouring or living under the Old Covenant you are under the curse of the Old Covenant. If the Old Covenant was good for us, or sufficient, why did Jesus go through all that suffering and hang on the cross to bring us a New Covenant?

In the New Covenant that Jesus made for us we are a level brotherhood; we are all on the same level. We all stand before the Father equally, no vicars, pastors, or priests, as we are all priests in this holy priesthood. There's no need for a temple (church building) as we are the temple of the living God. No call for tithing. All this is part of the Old Covenant which was needed to uphold the Levitical Priesthood. No need for an altar, as Jesus was the last sacrifice, once and for all. If you stay or partake in any of these laws or rituals then Christ benefits you not, and the group or place you put your self under is dead and you are not walking in the freedoms Jesus wants for you.

Now God is a jealous God and will not share those that were bought with His Sons blood, Again, who are we? We are His church, the Church He is building. We are His bride. We are to make ourselves ready for the wedding feast. So if we are the bride and He is the bridegroom, I think it is the same as if your wife or husband put another person (man or women) between you and them, you would not be happy; the bible calls it adultery!!! And we know the price for adultery.

Most Christians are happy to claim to be Christian but carry on living in a worldly and religious lifestyle, having a foot in both camps, But Father God is a jealous God and will not share His people. If you gave your life to the Lord Jesus then He promised you salvation! "You will be my people and I will be your God." But He wants more. His whole plan was for you to be His children and He would be a Father to you, not just your God, but your Father God, a Father that wants to spend time with you, a Father who wants to talk with you, one to one, as He did with Adam in the very beginning; a Father that loves you so much His whole plan from start to finish is for you and Him to spend eternity loving and talking with each other.

I feel this will not be possible if you do not love Him and disregard all He has done for you, to make it possible. The bible tells us that we have to "Come out from among them and be separate," says the Lord. 'Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you. I will be a FATHER to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the LORD ALMIGHTY." (2 Cor. 6:17&18)

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from ALL filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Cor 7:1)

I pray with all my heart that the truth come into your hearts, and that by the power of the Holy Spirit we can all enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it?

A.W.C. - January 2016