

16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.
 17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?
 (1 Pet. 4:16, 17)

Why I Believe
 In Living the Christian Life!

Not Because

- Living the Christian life eliminates suffering
 - Christians can and do suffer (1 Pet. 4:16)
- Living the Christian life eliminates temptation
 - God’s people are tempted (Heb. 11:37)
 - Christ was tempted and so might we be (Heb. 2:18; 4:15)
- Living the Christian life is praised by the world
 - In many circles it is ridiculed (as naive, silly, uneducated, weird, etc.)
 - “let him not be ashamed” (1 Pet. 4:16)



I Believe In Living the Christian Life

**Because Only A
 Christian Can
 Glorify God!**

Only Christians Can Glorify God

1 PETER 4:16

• “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter”

MATTHEW 5:16

• “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

When Christians

- > Forsake the assembling of saints
- > Neglect to serve in the services
- > Refuse to LEARN and SHARE the good news with others

**THEY DENY
THEIR
FUNDAMENTAL
REASON TO
EXIST:
TO GLORIFY
THE GOD OF
GLORY**

2

I Believe In Living the Christian Life

**Because All My
Failures and
Shortcomings Can
Be Forgiven**

Psalm 32:1, 2

Forgiveness

- When God forgives:
 - He lifts it up and takes it away
 - “Blessed is he whose transgression is **forgiven**, whose sin is covered” (Ps. 32:1)
 - “forgiven” (Heb. נָשָׂא, nasa’)
 - “to lift, lift up, to bear, carry, support, sustain, endure, to take, take away, carry off, forgive” (Online Bible Hebrew Lexicon)
 - “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:12)

Psalm 32:1, 2

Forgiveness

- When God forgives:
 - He lifts it up and takes it away
 - He covers (CONCEALS) it
 - “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is **covered**” (Ps. 32:1)
 - He removes it out of His sight and out of His mind!
 - God can enshroud our wretched deeds so that he no longer sees them
 - “He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea” (Mic. 7:19)

Psalm 32:1, 2

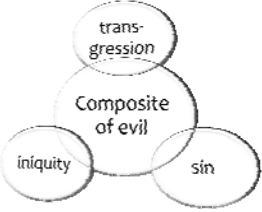
Forgiveness

- When God forgives:
 - He lifts it up and takes it away
 - He covers (CONCEALS) it
 - He cancels the debt
 - “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to **whom** the LORD **does not impute iniquity**, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.” (Ps. 32:1, 2)
 - To impute iniquity is to charge with iniquity
 - Some imputed sin to the innocent (Acts 2:12, 13, 15; cf. 1 Sam. 1:13-15)

Psalm 32:1, 2

God Forgives What?

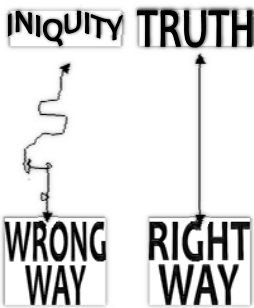
“Blessed is he whose **transgression** is forgiven, whose **sin** is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute **iniquity**, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.” (Ps. 32:1, 2)



1. **Transgression** = rebellion, revolting, breaking away of what is right
2. **Sin** = missing the mark, wander from the way
3. **Iniquity** = distort, bend, make crooked

God Forgives What?

“Blessed is he whose **transgression** is forgiven, whose **sin** is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute **iniquity**, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.” (Ps. 32:1, 2)



1. **Transgression** = rebellion, revolting, breaking away of what is right
2. **Sin** = missing the mark, wander from the way
3. **Iniquity** = distort, bend, make crooked

The Author of Psalm 32

- Had “transgressed,” “sinned,” and committed “iniquity” in his adultery with Bathsheba, murder of Uriah, and plans to cover up his sin.
- In all of these attempts, David’s sin lay bare and exposed to God
 - It could never be “covered” except by God, through confession (Ps. 32:3-5)
 - Only the “kiss of God” can extract the “serpent’s venom!”
 - Only “in Christ” can we be saved today from Satan’s poison!

2 Corinthians 5:19

19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**I BELIEVE IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE,
BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY LIFE WHERE
RECONCILIATION TO GOD IS!**



I Believe In Living the Christian Life

Because I Desire A Better Life

Christianity

- Christianity provides forgiveness for past failures
- But it also provides a pathway to higher attainments
 - It provides a staircase to success in this life as well as in the life to come
 - SONG: "Higher Ground"
 - It provides solutions to life's challenges and obstacles
 - It provides real and lasting goals for us to pursue
 - It connects what we do in this life with the next life

The Christian-Life Dichotomy

- **Servants Yet Conquerors** (Mk. 10:42-45; Rom. 8:37-39)
- **Humbled Yet Exalted** (1 Pet. 5:5-7)
- **Crucified Yet Fully Alive** (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:6; 1 Cor. 15:31; 2 Cor. 4:16)
- **Buried Yet Resurrected** (Col. 2:12)
- **Sojourners and Pilgrims Yet Heirs of Heaven's Riches** (1 Pet. 2:11; 1 Pet. 1:3, 4; Phil. 3:20)
- **At War Yet In Peace** (Rev. 12:17; 17:14; 1 Pet. 2:11; Jn. 14:27; 16:33; Rom. 8:6; Phil. 4:7)
- **With tears of sorrow and yet retaining joy** (1 Pet. 3:14; 4:12-14; Acts 5:41; 16:23, 25; Eccl. 7:13, 14; Lk. 7:38; Acts 20:31; 1 Thess. 5:16; Phil. 4:4)
- **Judged Yet Judges** (Acts 26:6; 1 Cor. 6:2; 1 Cor. 11:32)

It Results In Better Things

- Christians are better citizens
- Christians are trustworthy workers
- Christians are considerate managers
- Husbands are honorable and loving heads
- Wives are honorable and submissive brides
- Mothers are selfless caretakers and instructors
- Fathers are sacrificial and compassionate rulers/providers
- Children are obedient and respectful

4

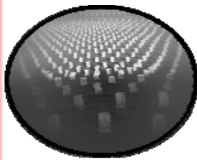
I Believe In Living the Christian Life

**Because of All
Accountable People,
Only Christians Have A
Realistic and Optimistic
Outlook Regarding
Death**

• **Psalms 23:4**
Yea, 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.

• **Revelation 14:13**
Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

• **Philippians 1:21**
For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.



"How Do You Become A Christian?"

To Know How To Become A Christian Is
To Let The Scripture Answer:

WHO IS A

“CHRISTIAN?”

1 Peter 4:15-19

¹⁵Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? ¹⁹Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

(NASB)

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(NASB)

Who Is & Is Not A Christian...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>CHRISTIAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wears name glorifying God • Part of house of God • Has obeyed the gospel • “Righteous” - “Saved” • Acts “according to the will of God” • Involved in well-doing as defined by Creator | <p>NOT A CHRISTIAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wears name glorifying one other than God • Not of house of God • Not obeyed the gospel • “Ungodly” - “Sinner” • Acts contrary to the will of God • Involved in well-doing as defined by man |
|--|--|



Christian



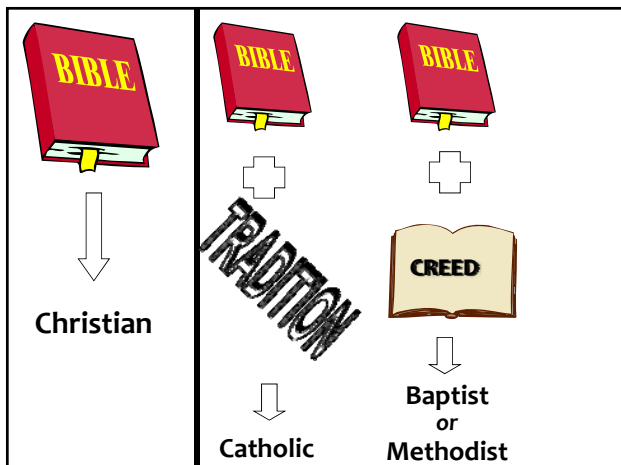
Christian

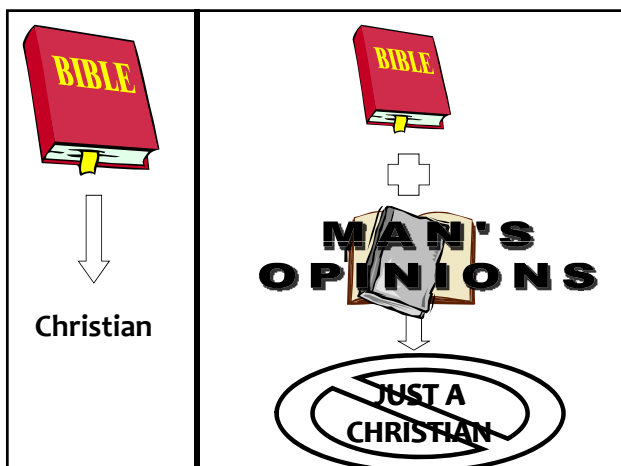


TRADITION



Catholic





Acts 26:27-29

²⁷“King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do.” ²⁸Agrippa replied to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.” ²⁹And Paul said, “I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains.”

(NASB)

A Christian Is One Who...

- Believes the preaching about Jesus
- Is persuaded to become a follower of Christ
- Obeys the same gospel obeyed by Paul
 - Acts 22:16
 - Romans 6:3-11
 - Acts 19:1-5
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13

Are You A Christian?

Would You Become One This Very Hour?

Are You

1. a member of God's household (1 Pet 4:17)
2. a member of God's church (Acts 11:21-26)
3. persuaded to be (Acts 26:28, 29)

????????????????

Becoming A Christian

- Do you believe Jesus is the Christ?
- Will you obey the Lord in baptism?
 - wearing the name of Christ?
 - becoming a part of God's house?
 - being saved from sin?
 - becoming active in well doing according to the word of God?


**GETTING INTO GOD'S
HOUSE BEGINS WITH
BAPTISM**

*"For you are all sons of God
through faith in Christ Jesus.*

FOR

*as many of you as were baptized
into Christ have put on Christ."*

*"For you are [PRESENTLY] all sons of God
through faith in Christ Jesus.*

FOR

*as many of you as were [IN THE PAST]
baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*
