



What Is it Like to
Be a Christian?

What is a “Christian”?

1. In Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
2. Believer (**Acts 18:8**)
3. Disciple (**Matthew 28:19–20**)
4. Saint (**1 Corinthians 1:2**)
5. Elect/chosen (**1 Peter 2:9, 2 Timothy 2:10**)
6. One who obeyed the gospel (**1 Peter 4:17, Romans 10:14-16**)
7. Citizen of Christ’s kingdom (**Col. 1:13**)
8. Member of the church (**Acts 2:41, 47**)
9. Member of the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:13, 27**)
10. Child of God (**Galatians 3:26–27**)
 - Thus, we are brothers and sisters

- The Bible only says “Christian” 3 times
 - **Acts 11:26**
 - **Acts 26:28**
 - **1 Peter 4:16**
- It uses many other synonyms

What Is it Like to Be a Christian?

A new life and master

- You are “born again” (**John 3:3-5**) to live a new life, leaving the old sins behind –
Romans 6:3-13
- You obey a new master – **Romans 6:16-18, 22**
- You are transformed – **Romans 12:1-2**
- It’s like marriage – actually, it IS a marriage –
Ephesians 5:23-24
 - You are committing your life to being faithful and loving someone – and that takes a TON of effort and sacrifice

What Is it Like to Be a Christian?

A new family

- To love
 - **1 John 3:14** – “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers” (ESV)
- To forgive
 - **Ephesians 4:32** – “Be kind to one another... forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (ESV)
- To help
 - **1 Peter 4:9; Romans 12:13** – Being hospitable
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:11** – Encouraging fellow Christians
 - **Galatians 6:1-2** – Help others avoid sin
- To protect
 - **Acts 20:28-31** – elders of a church must guard their flock
 - **Ephesians 6:18** – “...be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints” (NASB)

What Is it Like to Be a Christian?

Trials and tribulation

- God puts us through *trials*, and that is good – **James 1:2-3**
- The devil attacks Christians – **Ephesians 6:10–18**
- Other people will persecute those who are doing what is right – **Matthew 5:10-12**

Anything worth doing is worth fighting for

- As a Christian, we will fight with
 - Ourselves (**Romans 7:15-23**)
 - Our brothers and sisters (**Ephesians 4:1-3**)
 - The devil (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- The apostle Paul was treated terribly because he followed Jesus
 - But he knew it was all worth it, to be in heaven one day
 - **1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 30-32**