

The Word Christian

(Vines Dictionary) "Christian," a word formed after the Roman style, signifying an adherent of Jesus, was first applied to such by the Gentiles and is found in Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16.

Though the word rendered "were called" in Acts 11:26 might be used of a name adopted by oneself or given by others, the "Christians" do not seem to have adopted it for themselves in the times of the Apostles. In 1 Pet. 4:16, the Apostle is speaking from the point of view of the persecutor; cp. "as a thief," "as a murderer." Nor is it likely that the appellation was given by Jews. As applied by Gentiles there was no doubt an implication of scorn, as in Agrippa's statement in Acts 26:28. Tacitus, writing near the end of the first century, says, "The vulgar call them Christians. The author or origin of this denomination, Christus, had, in the reign of Tiberius, been executed by the procurator, Pontius Pilate" (Annals xv. 44). From the second century onward the term was accepted by believers as a title of honor.

The word Christian today has been and is being used as a title of dishonor. It has no meaning or connection to the character of Christ. The reason for this is because the word Christian is seen as a profession or belief and not as being obedient to the commandment and principles of God.

When people say they are Christians and believe in Jesus Christ, they must then be obedient to His instructions. Yet they choose to live like the world, because they do not believe they should or must obey the teachings of Jesus Christ or take on His character. Jesus said, "These people draw near Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off and

are far away from Me." Matthew 15:8 Amplified Bible (AMP)

The word Christian has become a "cliché" equated with the term religion rather than Jesus Christ. The term Christianity was born out of the followers of Jesus Christ being called Christians, but today is called a religion. Christianity is defined as "The Christian religion, founded on the life and teachings of Jesus." The term religion is defined as:

- Belief in and reverence for a supernatural power or powers regarded as creator and governor of the universe.
- A personal or institutionalized system grounded in such belief and worship.
- The life or condition of a person in a religious order.
- A set of beliefs, values, and practices based on the teachings of a spiritual leader.
- A cause, principle, or activity pursued with zeal or conscientious devotion.

From these definitions we can see that religion can be anything or anyone. Take for example the Onion: In Egypt, onions can be traced back to 3500 B.C. There is evidence that the Sumerians were growing onions as early as 2500 B.C. Onions were considered to be an object of worship. The onion symbolized eternity to the Egyptians who buried onions along with their Pharaohs. The Egyptians saw eternal life in the anatomy of the onion because of its circle-within-a-circle structure. Paintings of onions appear on the inner walls of the pyramids and in the tombs of both the Old Kingdom and the New Kingdom. The onion is mentioned as a funeral offering, and depicted on the banquet tables of the great feasts both large, peeled onions and slender, immature ones.

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They were shown upon the altars of the gods.

Frequently, Egyptian priests are pictured holding onions in his hand or covering an altar with a bundle of their leaves or roots. In mummies, onions have frequently been found in the pelvic regions of the body, in the thorax, flattened against the ears, and in front of the collapsed eyes. Flowering onions have been found on the chest, and onions have been found attached to the soles of the feet and along the legs. King Ramses IV, who died in 1160 B.C., was entombed with onions in his eye sockets.

Some Egyptologists theorize that onions may have been used because it was believed that their strong scent and/or magical powers would prompt the dead to breathe again. Other Egyptologists believe it was because onions were known for their strong antiseptic qualities, which construed as magical, would be handy in the afterlife.

Onions were eaten by the Israelites in the Bible. In Numbers 11:5, the children of Israel lament the meager desert diet enforced by the Exodus: We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic. •

Christianity is not a religion but a way of life.

A set of commandments and principles taught by Jesus Christ cause people to live an abundant life. “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows). John 10:10 Amplified Bible (AMP)

It’s a lifestyle that is totally different from the World. The name Christian was given to

the followers of Jesus by the World to denote a distinction from the world’s lifestyle born out of hatred for righteousness. Many who profess and carry the name Christian do not know Jesus Christ. The world assumed the name because of sin, wickedness and an attachment to the father of lies, the arch deceiver Satan, whose goal is to be like God. Satan said in his heart: “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:14 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Satan uses the word Christian for his followers to disgrace the followers of Christ while making His followers Christians in the minds of the deceived world. Remember when the name was given to the followers of Jesus Christ, it was out of scorn. There are those today who have lot of Scorn (contempt) for the true followers of Jesus. Their claim is that they are not what the claim to be. The devil has raised up his followers who are professing to be Christians to justify the claim. Therefore those who profess to be a Christian, live like the world, deny Christ in their heart, deny that they are sinners, make Him a liar in their lifestyle and have embraced death and reject life are not true followers of Jesus Christ but followers of Satan. 1 John 1:8-10 Amplified Bible (AMP) “If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude and lead ourselves astray, and the Truth [which the Gospel presents] is not in us [does not dwell in our hearts]. If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action]. If we say (claim) we have not sinned, we contradict His Word and make Him out to be false and a liar, and His Word

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is not in us [the divine message of the Gospel is not in our hearts].

If you are a true Christian, a true follower of Jesus you will live as Christ lived because of the will of the Father who has chosen you out of the world. “If you belonged to the world, the world would treat you with affection and would love you as its own. But because you are not of the world [no longer one with it], but I have chosen (selected) you out of the world, the world hates (detests) you.” John 15:19 Amplified Bible (AMP) This makes the Christian different in two ways, set apart from the World and the alternative life style to the World and it’s lifestyle.

John 14:21 Amplified Bible (AMP) “The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]”

John 17:6-9 Amplified Bible (AMP) “I have manifested Your Name [I have revealed Your very Self, Your real Self] to the people whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have obeyed and kept Your word. Now [at last] they know and understand that all You have given Me belongs to You [is really and truly Yours]. For the [uttered] words that You gave Me I have given them; and they have received and accepted [them] and have come to know positively and in reality [to believe with absolute assurance] that I came forth from Your presence, and they have believed and are convinced that You did send Me. I am praying for them. I am not praying (requesting) for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they belong to You.

If you call yourself a Christian your lifestyle must be different from the world. “ In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God]. Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [our behavior governed by our corrupt and sensual nature], obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind [our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings]. We were then by nature children of [God’s] wrath and heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind. But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ’s salvation). And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One). He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favor) in [His] kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:2-7 Amplified Bible (AMP)

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“So do not associate or be sharers with them. For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light]. For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life. And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him]. Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them. Ephesians 5:7-13 Amplified Bible (AMP)

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