BIBLE STUDY: Copying Christ – Do I Really Have To?

Copying Christ:
2,000 years later; it still means the same thing! "To mimic the Thoughts, Words, and Actions of The Son of God!"

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

"And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord..." (1 Thessalonians 1:6).

Bible Studies for those who want to know The TRUTH!!!
One Nation Under God Ministries  www.onug.us
BIBLE STUDY: Copying Christ – Do I Really Have To?

Copying or imitating Jesus Christ today, is not much different than doing it two thousand years ago! In our “modern” and “enlightened” world, you can still get into a lot of trouble if you begin to mimic the thoughts, words, and actions of the carpenter’s son Whom they nailed upon a cross!

Instructions: One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us) publishes and distributes weekly Bible Studies, worldwide – free of charge, to anyone who requests them, in both printed and electronic formats. Our Studies are intended to be a simple and fun way to learn the Scriptures, and are very easy to follow! We adhere to Jesus Christ’s Biblical instructions to teach and feed the flock of God portions of meat in due season, on weekly Sabbaths, and on the seven annual Holy Days throughout each calendar year (Luke 12:42 / Isaiah 28:9-10 / Matthew 13:52). Using both the Old and New Testaments, our Bible Studies are designed to present a premise, make a statement, or ask a question – followed by one or more Scriptural references. Just look up and read from your Bible the Scriptures listed. Comments following questions elaborate on the Scriptures you just read. Pray always before beginning any study of God’s Word, asking God to open both your eyes and your mind to His Truth; then Prove everything you read, is in fact the Truth, by comparing it to The Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21 / 2 Timothy 3:15-17). Then use the Biblical System of Checks and Balances, and SEE if both Jesus Christ, and the First Century Church of God Apostles – also Did, Said, and Taught these SAME THINGS (Galatians 1:1-12, 5:25 / 1 Peter 2:21, 25 / 1 John 2:3-6)! That’s all there is to it! Our Bible Studies are based on the King James Version, unless otherwise stated. We will be praying for your eyes to “see” (Matthew 13:11-17); and we are always available to answer any of your questions! Be Blessed, in Jesus’ Name! - One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us).

In some places you might lose your job, your freedom, your life, and may even have your head removed from your body for publicly following the teachings of Jesus Christ! I have seen Christians, or imitators of the man Jesus Christ, executed, and their dead lifeless bodies dragged through the streets before
being thrown in an open field; simply because “killing” a disciple of the Son of God, didn’t give the crowd enough satisfaction!

In less severe cases of copying Christ, I have seen children rejected by their parents, families broken, marriages torn, tenants expelled, and employees fired or passed over for promotion!

If Copying Christ carries such risks, why then would anyone want to do it?

Well, that is a profound question; and today we are going to look to the Bible to get some “Scripturally Honest” answers. But first, let’s look at our audience and the world’s population…

**What is a real Christian, or a True Worshipper of God (John 4:22-26)?**

Fact: Most people in the world today simply do not acknowledge Jesus Christ, as the Son of God. Many Americans don’t know this to be the case, because we still have many of the freedoms our Founding Fathers fought to give us, and we assume the rest of the world is just like us; but it isn’t (2 Corinthians 3:17 / Deuteronomy 28:58-68)!!! When God’s people forget God and His Law; God will take away our Blessings as a warning – then if we do not heed, God will take away our Freedom – as He has done over and over again in Scripture – AND AS HE PROMISES TO DO TO US TODAY – IF WE DO NOT REPENT FROM OUR EVIL WAYS AND COPY CHRIST!!! Oh, When will we ever learn?

From an Executive Summary of global Christianity conducted by Pew Research dot org; I found this:

“A comprehensive demographic study of more than 200 countries finds that there are 2.18 billion Christians of all ages around the world, representing nearly a third (1/3) of the estimated 2010 global population of 6.9 billion [This is something that we know
will drastically change in the years ahead (Romans 14:11 / Philippians 2:8-11 / Isaiah 45:23)!!!].

Gathering, Scattering, Gathering...

In 2018, Christians are geographically widespread – so far-flung, in fact, that no single continent or region can indisputably claim to be the center of global Christianity (John 10:16, 4:21 / Zechariah 13:7 / John 16:32). History repeats itself, again and again.

A century ago, this scattering of Christians was not the case. In 1910, about two-thirds (2/3) of the world’s Christians lived in Europe, where the bulk of Christians had been for a millennium, according to historical estimates by the Center for the Study of Global Christianity. Today, only about a quarter (1/4) of all Christians live in Europe (26%). A plurality – more than a third (1/3+) now are in the Americas (37%). About one in every four Christians lives in sub-Saharan Africa (24%), and about one-in-eight is found in Asia and the Pacific (13%).”

A Christian is defined as a follower of the man, Jesus Christ (Luke 6:46 / John 14:15, 21 / 1 John 2:3-6 / 1 John 5:1-6, 8). As a man, He taught us many things, and changed the way we think about God. A Christian then would believe in Jesus’ teachings, follow His many examples, and most importantly, worship God the Father exactly like Jesus told us, and showed us to.

Jesus told us that real Christians would not be popular if they followed His example and preached His teachings (Luke 6:26 / Matthew 10:16-28 / John 15:18-25 / Matthew 5:10-12 /2 Timothy 3:12). www.onug.us

Jesus also said that His followers would actually “Love” their enemies and be merciful to them (Luke 6:27-36). We can see that our modern “Christian” nations have fallen short in this regard.
A 17th century French philosopher, Pierre Bayle, said, “No nations are more warlike than those that profess Christianity.” Now going to war, in and of itself does not mean that a person is not a Christian (Numbers 32:20-32 / Psalm 144:1-2 / Zechariah 14:5, 12-16); but making your economy based on war, and the sale of war, is not Christ-like (Matthew 5:9 / 1 Timothy 6:6-10)!

English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) said “The same means that have supported every other popular belief have supported Christianity. War, imprisonment, assassination and falsehood; deeds of unexampled and incomparable atrocity have made it what it is.” But what exactly “is” this Christianity thing? What exactly is a real Christian (Luke 6:27-31)? Who are the ones that “hear” Christ, that can “love”, and “Bless” their enemies? And how are they to do it, especially in the world we live in today?

An honest individual would have to admit that the world we live in, even the more than 2 billion “Christian” part of it, does not live up to Jesus Christ’s expectation of it (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Those that are Real Christians must learn to start calling Jesus “LORD” (the One with Supreme, Total, and Absolute Power and Authority over your life), and MEAN IT (Luke 6:46). If we are not going to obey Christ, we should not be calling Him LORD!!

Most of the people who confess Christ as LORD, don’t have the faintest idea of what the word “Lord” means, let alone the actual Words and Teachings of the Jesus they say they follow (Matthew 7:21-23)! Jesus Christ is telling us that if we are to call Him LORD, and become His follower, we must be OBEDIENT to God the Father, just as Christ was in the flesh. We must “HEAR” and “DO” what Jesus Christ commands (Luke 8:21 / John 14:15, 15:14). The Biblical definition of a Real Christian is one who can hear Jesus’ voice, through the Spirit of God (John 10:26-30), understand what Jesus is telling us to do (Matthew 13:11, 16-17 / Psalm 111:10); and actually does what Jesus Commanded us to do (Revelation 22:14 / 1 John 2:3-7, 5:3-5 / John 15:14-17, 12:44-50 / Matthew 12:49-50 / John 13:14-17). www.onug.us
True Christianity is not merely a set of beliefs, it is not joining a church, it is not something practiced for a few hours on Sunday, or one day a week, or at odd intervals. True Christianity is a way of life, giving up your own self direction and taking on Christ’s direction and guidance in your life (Matthew 11:29)!!! Early Christians referred the original Christianity as “The Way of The LORD” (Acts 18:25); or as “The Way of God” (Acts 18:26). How cool is that? Christianity is a path (Proverbs 3:1-16 / John 14:6)! What Did Jesus Do (W.D.J.D.)? Let’s Copy Christ!!!

We have all heard the expression, “It’s my way or the highway!” Christ is saying the same thing! If you reject Christ, you reject the Father, and that puts you onto the “highway to hell” (hell of course meaning Sheol (O.T.) or Hades (N.T.); and both of these words meaning “death and the grave” (Proverbs 7:25-27, 2:17-19). It really all boils down to the Way of God or the ways (plural – there are many!) of Satan the deceiver (John 10:10). Many people are on the wrong highway, absolutely convinced of a destination they will never arrive at (John 10:9, 5:33-40).

For more information about what “Hell” really is (the Bible uses four different words to mean three different places; and only two of which people will ever enter – and both result in the total cessation of life!); check out our Bible Study (at www.onug.us):

**Just What The Heck Do You Mean By Hell?**

Following Christ involves doing something! It involves “following” Christ, doing what Jesus did (Matthew 19:16-21)!!! Many false prophets tell us today that there is “nothing to do” when you become a Christian. They tell us “just accept Jesus Christ in your heart and it’s all done for you. There are no works involved in salvation.” But let’s go back to Matthew 19:16-21 and see. www.onug.us

Verse 16: “What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” The man knew he had to “do” something to gain eternal life, and Jesus did not correct him on this point; He answered it!
Verse 17: “... if thou will enter into life, keep the commandments.” Then Jesus reads them out so there is no confusion which ones He means (Matthew 19:18-19).

Verse 20: “... what lack I yet?” The man asks Jesus is there anything else that must be done?


Christians must get rid of every obstacle that inhibits our walk with Christ (John 4:23-24). To the rich young man, wealth was an obstacle for him; one that he was not willingly to give up. What is your obstacle that Christ is asking you to give up in order to worship God in spirit and in truth? www.onug.us

Following Christ involves doing what He commands us to do; it involves keeping the Ten Commandments! – which are “essential subjects” - if we want to qualify for our inheritance, our free gift – if we qualify, of eternal life (Revelation 22:14-21). So said Jesus!

Have you been keeping the Ten Commandments? Most of us might think we are like the rich young man. But let’s try something. Let’s read them off one by one (they are found in Exodus 20:1-21 and Deuteronomy 5:1-24) and see if there isn’t room for improvement in our life. In this materialistic world, high technology world that we live in, you may be surprised at what the fourth and the tenth Commandments have to say.

The ten beneficial laws were given by the Creator God to show us how to live a better life now and please God forever. God gave us the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai (on the Feast of Pentecost), accompanied by smoke, earthquakes, and the blast of a trumpet to emphasize the importance of these laws. Moses recorded God’s words in both Exodus 20 and in Deuteronomy 5 with only slight differences of emphasis in each account.
The 10 Commandments (A Short Form):

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Do you consider The Ten Commandments to be God, or actually Jesus Christ telling us The Father’s Way (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)? Do YOU consider God’s Laws – HIM Showing us His Glory, His Greatness, His Voice, and His Will for us in this world? The Ten Commandments represents God talking to man, so that “we” could LIVE (Deuteronomy 5:24 / Ezekiel 18:31)!!

True Conversion is becoming a True Christian!

Becoming a Real Christian involves every moment of every day! Real Christianity should guide our every activity, our every social situation, our every endeavor, our every goal, and every plan we ever make! Christ has revealed the Father’s Laws, His Will, and His Words to us; and we should realize that they have a direct bearing on every facet of our lives!!! We should let Jesus the Christ rule our every thought (2 Corinthians 10:1-5). A Real Christian follows Christ’s example, and prays for God’s help, wisdom, love, and guidance in their daily activities. He or She will be carefully and diligently studying the Scriptures, researching all the examples of Christ revealed in the Bible.
A Real Christian would never follow a Jesus made up in someone else’s mind, or one of the many false “christs” given to us by Satan the devil (1 John 3:1-10 / Revelation 22:14-15).

--------------------------------------------------------------------

In 2014, Hollywood produced a Movie titled: Noah, starring Russel Crowe. It is important for Christians to compare what men produce to what God actually says.

The Flood That Covered The Earth:

You should know that from Creation to the worldwide Flood of Noah was 1656 years! We can prove this from the Scriptures because we can see that Lamech, or Methuselah's son, has his own son when he is 182 years old (Genesis 5:28). This makes 1056 years since Creation, if we graph it all out on paper - and we have!!! :o) www.onug.us

Lamech's son was Noah (Genesis 5:29). Noah was 500 when he had Shem (Genesis 5:32). This takes us to the year 1556 since Creation.

The Bible is very clear in what year the worldwide Flood happened (Genesis 7:11). Add another 100 years to Noah’s life and our previous date of 1556 years; and we can prove a worldwide Flood happened in the year 1656 from Creation!

The CREATOR GOD:

1) From Creation to the Flood = **1656 years**.

2) Abraham is born 292 years after the Flood.

(292 + 1656 = **1948 years** since the Creation at Abraham’s birth).

3) Abraham receives God’s Promise and leaves Haram at age 75

(1948 + 75 = **2023 years** since Creation, when Abram leaves).
4) Paul (Galatians 3:17) says the Israelites left Egypt 430 years after God gave the promise to Abraham (430 + 2023 = \textbf{2453 years} from Creation, when the Exodus begins).

5) 1 Kings 6:1 tells us Solomon began to build the LORD’s temple 480 years after the Exodus, in the 4th year of his reign (2453 years + 480 = \textbf{2933 years} from Creation, when the temple building began).

6) 1 Kings 6:37-38 tells us it took 4 years to finish laying the foundation of the temple, and another 7 years to complete the building, for a total of 11 years (2933 + 11 = \textbf{2944 years} from the Creation, until Solomon’s temple was finished).

7) Rabbinic sources and archeologists state the first temple stood for 410 years before it was destroyed (2944 + 410 = \textbf{3354 years} from Creation, when the first temple was destroyed in 586 B.C.). In 2017 A.D., that would have been about 2,600 years ago (2017 + 586 = 2603 years ago from today). www.onug.us

8) Jesus was born in 3 B.C. (The current Gregorian calendar that we use today has a 4 year error). Still, using the current B.C. or now BCE (before the common era) formula, we see Christ was born in the flesh about 3904 years after Creation (Luke 3:23-38); or using the destruction of the first temple as a Biblical guide, Jesus was born 586 years after it was destroyed (3354 + 586 = Jesus was born \textbf{3940 years from Creation})! www.onug.us

<For inquiring minds: The Second Temple. In 539 B.C. (about 2500 years ago), Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon after death of King Nebuchadnezzar, and establishes the Medo-Persian Empire. Cyrus allows more religious freedom, he releases the Jews from Babylonian captivity (the Jews having lost track of time, they now keep the Passover on the 15th day of Aviv instead of the 14th – like Jesus told us to), and they return to Judah. In 536 B.C. work begins to rebuild the temple which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. In 516 B.C. the second temple is consecrated for worship, 70 years after it was destroyed. In 333 B.C. Alexander conquers Macedonia paving the way for the Old Testament to be translated into Greek in 250 B.C. (called the
Septuaginta). In 63 B.C. the Romans take over Israel after the death of Alexander. In 3 B.C. Jesus is born in Bethlehem. In 70 A.D. the Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Second Temple to suppress the Jewish uprising, killing about 1.1 million Jews, according to historian Josephus.

9) If we can prove Biblically that 3940 years from Creation that Christ was born; and we know that was only 2018 - 2022 years ago (3940 + 2018 = 5958); then today, we are only living about 5,958 years after God created Adam – in the beginning!!! (2 Peter 3:3-13 / Exodus 31:15-17 / Revelation 20:4-6). Evolution is a LIE, and a demonic one at that!!! 2 Peter 3:8 / Psalm 90:4!!! How much TIME do we have left before the Return of Jesus???: www.onug.us

76 Generations: There are 76 generations from Adam to Jesus listed in Luke 3. We do not know exactly how old each son of God was (within the age of each father listed in Scripture), when they fathered a son. For example, Terah (Abram’s Dad) was 70 when he had Abram (Genesis 11:26). But was that in the first or the twelfth month of his 70th year? You can see that it is possible to have a variation of up to almost 76 years in the 5,958 years since God made Adam, and the 4 year error of the Gregorian calendar is not factored in either! So today we could be somewhere in between the years 5,886 (5958 + 4 - 76) to 6,038 (5958 + 4 + 76) since Creation week started God’s time keeping system (Genesis 1:14-19)!!! www.onug.us

2 Peter 3:8-9 / Psalm 90:4 / Exodus 31:12-18 all tell us God uses a seven day week to show us a seven thousand year Plan! Matthew 24:22 / Mark 13:20-21 also show us Christ will return BEFORE the 6,000 years allotted to mankind, previous to the thousand year rest beginning! So let’s take 5,886 years and make that 2018; how many more years are needed to reach 6,000? 6,000 – 5,886 (the low estimate) = 114 years or less (if we use the higher number of years estimate) until The Second Coming of Christ!!! Is this wrong to count, to estimate, to figure? Some will say yes; you cannot know when Jesus is coming back (Matthew 24:36 / Mark 13:32)! But then Jesus did give us The Olivet
Prophecy, His Holy Days, and it was JESUS Himself who told us to **WATCH** (Luke 21:34-38 / Matthew 24:32-51 / Mark 13:32-37)!!!

Are you teaching people that the LORD delays His Coming? Or are you teaching them to WATCH and giving them Meat in Due Season? Whether or not you are FAITHFUL to Sabbath, **THAT IS WHAT tells the whole world YOUR ANSWER!!**

When we keep God’s weekly Sabbath Day, exactly as He Commands us to, we acknowledge God as our Creator – exactly as His Word above shows us He is!

SABBATH: The Sign of God between the Weeks!

The word Sabbath means to STOP, to REST, to BE STILL. **Do you (Psalm 46:10 / Isaiah 30:15)?**

Jesus calls us to WATCH (the clock – His clock) and PRAY ALWAYS that we may be accounted worthy to escape the sudden trap that will spring upon this world! He WARNS us not to get tangled up with this world’s way of measuring time (Evolution’s millions and billions of years, the Catholic church’s B.C. or A.D., or the modern day academics’ BCE or CE), which teach us nothing about the Plan of God, or how to gauge time on a Biblical scale (Matthew 24:32-44 / Mark 13:14-37 / Luke 21:34-37)!

“**And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching**” (Hebrews 10:24-25)!!

Can YOU see the day approaching? Do YOU see God’s Plan of 6 days to work, and one day to rest? Can YOU see his Plan to rescue man from sin and death after 6,000 years of human history, and usher in 1,000 year rest with the worldwide implementation of the Kingdom of God on this very earth?

Just as Jesus in the flesh, would cease from His labor as a carpenter, and rest on the seventh day (Sabbath / Saturday), He
gathered or convocated with His followers, and taught them The Father’s Way and The Father’s Word (from sun up to sun down on Sabbaths); so shall Christ return at the end of 6,000 years, and fellowship with ALL of Mankind for a thousand years, and HE will give us REST (Isaiah 66:23-24)!!! www.onug.us

Jesus is coming very soon to REWARD and to BLESS those who carry the Sign of the Creator God (Matthew 16:24-27 / Revelation 22:11-14)!!!

May we all COPY CHRIST; and LIVE!!!

The First Century Church of God is still alive and well; and we are still about our Father’s Business! We would like to Thank You for joining One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us) today in the Study of God’s Word, and hope that you will continue on with us next week as we continue to look at more of what The Bible really says about How and Why we must Copy the man, Jesus the Christ! We so enjoyed having you study and fellowship with us!!! Please stay in touch!

In Jesus Christ’s Mighty Name, Peace!

- submitted by Pastor R. C. Brown III

One Nation Under God Ministries is Preparing this world for The Return of Jesus Christ; One Bible Study At A Time!

JESUS IS LORD!!! www.onug.us

The sad state of affairs today is that the vast majority of Americans are Bible illiterates (Hosea 4:6). They simply have never read the book which they profess to regard as the “Word of God”. If we are to change this, we must begin using the Bible as our primary source of education, to learn about God and His teachings (Matthew 6:33).
If you have never faithfully kept God’s seventh day Sabbath holy or God’s Holy Days, the way Jesus Christ did – in the flesh, and in the fellowship of other followers of the Son of Man (Hebrews 10:25); we invite you to obediently enter into God’s rest today, and to keep the Feasts of the LORD (Hebrews 4:1-11 / Leviticus 23:1-44)! Contact us to find out where we fellowship and worship God, in your area, on His Sabbath Days (Exodus 31:12-18). We would love to hear from you and help get you started!

Join us on-line each Sabbath and Holy Day at www.onug.us where you can download our Bible Studies, or join us on facebook to listen in to our live webinar each week.

You may write to us at:
One Nation Under God Ministries
P.O. Box 111960
Naples, Florida 34108 U.S.A.
You can telephone us at: (239) 353 – 1303
Or e-Mail us at: one_nation_under_god_usa@msn.com

“But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one” (John 10:26-30).

Christians must learn to read the Bible, interpret the scriptures according to Biblical principles (Isaiah 28:9-10, 13), and begin to apply the precepts they learn in their walk with God. Individual study is essential; coupled with fellowship times of group study, worship, and discussions of personal insights and observations.

We strive, each Saturday, to foster an open and welcoming atmosphere where Spirit led confirmation, clarification, questions,
and correction can be made in the fellowship of other students of God’s Word.

One Nation Under God (www.onug.us) is working to unify the body of Christ in the worship of God the Father, in the way Jesus showed us to - in Spirit and in Truth! We strive to promote rediscovery of American History, and renew in current generations the Vision and the Covenant of our Founding Fathers.

---------------------------------------------------------

NEVER A COST - All of our Bible Studies, are mailed FREE, worldwide to anyone that asks.

“And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease... And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat”

– Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:1, 7-10).

PRISON MINISTRY - Is there anyone you know in jail or in prison who may like to begin receiving our FREE weekly Bible Studies? Please let us know, we would be happy to share the Good News of God’s Coming Kingdom with them!

TITHES, OFFERINGS, & DONATIONS – We gratefully acknowledge and thank every one of you, led by God, to support this ministry! All of our Bible Studies, Booklets, mailing costs, and internet ministry expenses are paid for by the Tithes, Offerings, and Donations of our church membership, and by others just like you, who partner with us to help preach The Gospel in these last days!

We Pray Daily for all of you who come alongside us and continue to support this work; and we ask that you to join us in also
Praying for all those around the world, to whom God’s Word will be sent - by our collective efforts! Please Pray with us; and Please Pray for us!

For those who wish to financially contribute to this Work, you may do so:

- Online at [www.onug.us](http://www.onug.us) - just click the “Donate” button.

- In the United States, checks and money orders may be made payable to: One Nation Under God Ministries

- From outside the U.S.A., payments may be made to: The Church of One Nation Under God International, P.O. Box 111960, Naples, Florida 34108, U.S.A.

Notes: