



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday – May 3, 2026**

## **Heart to Heart...**

Today the name "Christian" means little. It is used so loosely in our society that it has little meaning. We hear people speak of "*Christian* radio", "*Christian* gatherings", "*Christian* concerts", "*Christian* television" and "*Christian* music". People say they believe in God and Christ Jesus which makes them a "*Christian*." What really constitutes one being a "*Christian*" from the Lord's perspective? Let's investigate!

A true "*Christian*" is a disciple. A disciple is a learner and follower of the Lord and His teachings. The term disciple is no longer used after Acts 21:16 in the rest of Scripture. We find the word, saint, brother, child of God, and believers being used from that point onward. The term "*Christian*" is only used 3 times in all of Scripture. The term "*Christian*" never came from the followers of Jesus. It came from the world who recognized them as following Jesus (Acts 11:26). A true "*Christian*" has acknowledged Christ Jesus as their sin-bearer and are united with Him in baptism (Romans 6:3-6). A true "*Christian*" must know the real faith purpose of baptism! Baptism is where sins are forgiven in the name of the Lord and resulting in Jesus calling them brothers/sisters, acknowledging they are of His family because of their forgiveness, they are sanctified (made holy like God)/like Jesus (Hebrews 2:11) That holiness affects them deeply and they desire to follow taking on his nature.

They have great love and devotion to their Lord. Their faith trusts Him. Their faith walks in His steps. Their faith gets direction from His word. A true "*Christian*" has submitted with all their heart to Jesus' Lordship. They love not only Christ, but Christ's body, the church. They express their love with Christ's body in worship and taking His Supper and the study of His word. What I have just described is a compiling of a totality of Scripture. There is no single verse, no single section of Scripture which exhaustively tells us what a "*Christian*" is and does. We can only come to understand the term by putting together clearly stated truth from the whole

New Testament. To do that, we must start with how one is saved! A true “*Christian*” has laid hold of the hope of Christ. They aren’t looking at how many religious things they are involved in or listening to. Their heart and actions belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. It’s all about Him and what He has done for them. How many people do you know that profess the term “*Christian*” and their language and actions are not anything like Jesus? Scriptures call that hypocrisy! A child of God shares His grace and forgiveness toward others that are undeserving. No grudges or hard feelings, no resentment and no paying others back for what they have done to you. They feast on His word as that is where they find their sustaining power. They are self-sacrificing as He sacrificed for them. They examine everything carefully to make certain they avoid the appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:21). They watch over their mouths giving the Lord the right to control. We need to re-examine Scriptures to see if we really are a true “*Christian*” in Christ’s world. Maybe we need to ask: would we want others to imitate our faith? Where would your faith lead others? Into Christ and His truth or religious activities? Do you know at what point one is really saved? Think about it!!!

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