

WEARING THE NAME CHRISTIAN

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Adapted from Christian Data #1

INTRO:

A. I Pet. 4:16, "Yet if any man suffer as a.."

- (1) As a Christian we are to bring glory to God.
- (2) This is not done by simply saying, "I am a Christian".
- (3) This is done through conduct & attitude.

B. The name "Christian" is found only 3 times in the New Testament.

- (1) I Pet. 4:16
- (2) Acts 11:26, "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."
- (3) Acts 26:28, "And Agrippa said to Paul, You almost persuaded me to become a Christian."

C. The Denominational World Wears The Name, But:

- (1) Contrary to Christ's prayer in John 17:20, "Neither pray I for these alone."
- (2) Contrary to Paul's plea that we speak the same things (I Cor. 1:10)
- (3) Contrary to the Teaching of Eph. 4:4-6 "one body, Spirit, Hope, Lord, Faith, Baptism, God."
- (4) It is impossible for the Denominational World to truly wear the name of Christ, Which is Christian, "Is Christ Divided?"

D. Thus, this lesson is directed to "Christians" of a true sort and "only Christians", members of the Church of our Lord. That Blood bought body of believers.

- (1) We need to understand that "Christian" is the right and only name that we should wear.
- (2) Yet some don't realize the significance of "wearing that name."
- (3) The Aim of this lesson is to cause us to look closer at the responsibilities that go with this great name.

I. A CHRISTIAN IS MORE THAN A:

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| A. baptized person | D. There are many of |
| B. Church member | these in the world |
| C. Weekly worshiper | but FEW Christians! |

II. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN WEARING THE NAME "CHRISTIAN"?

A. The name:

- (1) Many names in the world that hold dishonor. (thief, drunk, liar)
- (2) There are names that are looked upon with honor. (president, American)
- (3) The name "Christian" is the greatest & most distinguished name of all, Isa. 56:5 & Isa. 62:2

(4) We have been named with a name that can have no greater Honor. It is an Honor to wear this great name given by God & which contains within it the name of our great brother (Jesus Christ).

(NOTICE: I Pet 4:16 again with Acts 5:41, "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

(5) Early Christians were proud of their name. It is sad to see one today who has opportunity to profess that grand & noblest of names and yet is ashamed to do so.

B. There are Great Blessings When We Wear The Name "Christian".

(1) Consider Eph. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
Blessings include: (forgiveness, prayer, fellowship, help, worship...)

C. There is the Promise of Heaven to Those Who Wear the Name Christian, and Only to Them.

(1) John 8:24 "I said therefore to you that you shall die in your sins, for if you don't believe that I am he, you shall die in your sins".

(2) Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Only Christians are making the preparations needed. (My Prayer is that each of you is doing some preparation)

D. Along with Honor, Blessing & Promise, There Is Responsibility in Wearing The Name Christian".

(1) For Example "American"

Accept the constitution.

practice our democracy.

be law abiding.

fighting for this country.

(2) There are duties as well that we have when we wear the name Christian.

As a Disciple we must Learn.

As a Follower we must Imitate.

As a Child of God we must Obey.

As a Servant we are to be Loyal

We are to fear God & Keep His Commandments.

When we have done all that is commanded to do we then must say "We have done that which was our duty to do." Luke 17:10

(3) There is a great difference in wearing the name and being a Christian.

III. HOW CAN WE DETERMINE IF WE ARE "CHRISTIAN" OR MERELY WEARING THE NAME?

A. Did you become a Christian from conviction or convenience? (Family, Prestige, Pressure)

(1) If so, You're Just wearing the name.

- Deny yourself take up the cross daily and follow Jesus

B. Are you separated from the world in your Recreation, Language, Literature, Habits & Morals?

- James 4:4 – Friendship with the world is enmity with God

C. Are you devoted to the Church?

(1) Does the Church come 1st in your life for you cannot have Christ without His Church? Mt. 6:33

"Seek ye 1st the..."

(2) Do we love the brethren or have no time for them?

John 13:34, "love one another"

D. Do you attend all the services of the Church because you want to or a minimum standard that you have deemed

acceptable? – Heb 10:25

E. ASK, "Do I give liberally of Miserably?" – 2 Cor. 9:

(1) If Liberally = Christian

(2) If miserably = wearing the name

G. Are you growing in the Christian graces?

(1) II Pet 1:5ff these include knowledge.

(2) Are you unconcerned with Christian growth and development?

H. Are you trying to save the lost according to your opportunity and ability or is there little care for telling others about Jesus? – Mat. 5:14-16

CONCLUSION:

A. Wearing the name Christian is something we do Voluntarily. II Cor. 12:15, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you".

B. Wherever we go, if we are a Christian we must act like one. – Gal. 3:27 – He who has been baptized into Christ has put on Christ

(1) Christ cannot be taken off and put back on as we do a garment for the occasion.

C. Christianity is a Daily and Hourly Commitment.

(2) Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

D. Remember, That not all who wear the name will go to Heaven.

(1) We must act as Christ in the world

(2)

E. Ask yourself, "Am I wearing the name of Christ as I should"? "Am I seeking to be more like Jesus each day?"