

### Responses to “What is a Normal Christian?”

- Be a better person
- Be nice
- Be courteous
- Don't be selfish
- “A normal Christian is like me”

### *UnChristian* by David Kinnamin with Barna Research Group

- Hypocritical
- Uncaring
- Hateful toward homosexuals
- Sheltered from the world
- Too political
- Judgmental

### “Normal” is Different from “Average”

- Average = “being midway between the extremes... not out of the ordinary” (Merriam-Webster)
  - An “average” Christian life is defined by looking at the Christians around you and seeing what's in between the extremes, what are most people like...
  - The Statistics
  - 55% don't even read the Bible at least once a week (Lifeway Research, 2025)
  - 39% of marriages end in divorce (same as non-Christians)
  - 50% say casual, no-strings-attached sex between unmarried adults is perfectly fine (Pew Research, 2020)
  - 57% say a homosexual lifestyle should be embraced by society (Pew Research, 2025)
  - 52% say abortion should be allowed in most or all cases (Pew Research, 2025)
  - 58% say normalizing Transgenderism is a good thing (Pew Research, 2025)
  - 54% of Christian young adults report often feeling anxiety about their future (Gitnux.org, 2025)
  - 47% of Millennial Christians are or have been in therapy (Gitnux.org, 2025)
  - 51% of Christian men report some level of pornography addiction (Gitnux.org, 2025)
- Normal = “conforming to a type, standard, or regular pattern... Something is “normal” if it conforms to the norm

### A “Normal” Christian Life Conforms to Jesus, our Standard

- 1 John 2:6 – Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
  - ESV = .... ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
- John 14:12 – ... whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

### What Kind of Things did Jesus, our Standard, our Norm, Do?

- Healed the sick (paralytics, lepers, blind, epileptic boy, man who couldn't speak, deaf, invalids, withered hand, woman with issue of blood, crippled woman, man with dropsy, high priest's servant's ear)
- Raised the dead 3X
- Raised Himself from the dead
- Turned water into wine
- Cast out demons (once sending them into pigs)
- Made a giant catch of fish appear 2X

- Calmed a storm
- Multiplied food 2X
- Caused a fig tree to wither
- Walked on water
- Found money in a fish's mouth
- Knew what people were thinking
- Prophesied about future events
- Preached and taught about the Kingdom of God, loved the unlovable, confronted religious hypocrites, made disciples...
- Matthew 4:23-25 – 23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.
- Luke 7:21-23 – 21 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 23 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”
- Acts 10:37-38 – 37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

### **It's Not Because Jesus Was God That He Did What He Did**

- John 5:19 – ... Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.
- Philippians 2:5-7 says that Jesus “emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

### **We are Not Mere Humans Anymore**

- 1 Corinthians 3:3 – You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?
- 1 John 2:6 – Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
- John 14:12 – ... whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing... and even greater things...
- Mark 16:15-18 – 15 ...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

### **The Early Church Took Their Call Seriously**

- Mark 16:19-20 – 19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. 20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.
- Acts 5:12-16 – 12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. 13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. 14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in

the Lord and were added to their number. 15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

- Not Just the 12 Disciples
  - Apostle Paul
  - Stephen and Philip
  - Agabus, Ananias, Philip's daughters

### **American Christianity Needs a Change**

- 71% of Americans call themselves Christians... 223 million people
- 91 million say they've been "born again"