

IDENTIFYING BAPTISM & COMMUNION



Identifying: What does it mean to be a Christian?



**What does it mean to identify
as a Christian?**

ACTS 11:25-26

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

1 PETER 4:16

However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

1 PETER 4:12-13

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.



“The famous early church historian Eusebius, described a believer named Sanctus from Lyons, France, who was tortured for Jesus. As they tortured him cruelly, they hoped to get him to say something evil or blasphemous. They asked his name, and he only replied, ‘I am a Christian.’”

– Richard Allen Anthony

ACTS 1:8

And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea,
Samaria and the ends of the earth.

“If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”

– Dr. David Otis Fuller

**If you take the the word “Christian”
and move the letter “a” to the front
of the name you end up with an
interesting designation
“A Christ In” person.**

ACTS 17:7 NLT

They are all guilty of treason against Caesar, for they profess allegiance to another king, named Jesus.

**Many of us make Jesus
our Savior but not make
Him our Lord.**

Ephesians 1:3-4 AMP

Blessed and worthy of praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ, just as in His love He chose us in Christ actually selected us for Himself as His own before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy that is, consecrated, set apart for Him, purpose-driven and blameless in His sight.

EPHESIANS 1:4-5 AMP

In love He predestined and lovingly planned for us to be adopted to Himself as His own children.

EPHESIANS 1:7 AMP

In Him we have redemption that is, our deliverance and salvation through His blood, which paid the penalty for our sin and resulted in the forgiveness and complete pardon of our sin, in accordance with the riches of His grace.

EPHESIANS 1:13-14 AMP

In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the good news of your salvation, and as a result believed in Him, were stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit the One promised by Christ as owned and protected by God.

The Spirit is the guarantee the first installment, the pledge, a foretaste of our inheritance.

EPHESIANS 1:15-19 AMP

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers; I always pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight into the true knowledge of Him for we know the Father through the Son. And I pray that the eyes of your heart the very center and core of your being may be enlightened flooded with light by the Holy Spirit, so that you will know and cherish the hope the divine guarantee, the confident expectation to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people), and so that you will begin to know what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His active, spiritual power is in us who believe.

- Blessed us with every spiritual blessing
- Holy and blameless in his sight
- Lovingly planned for us to be adopted sons and daughters
- Forgiveness and complete pardon of our sin
- Seal of the promised Holy Spirit
- Placed in Him with all promises
- Grant you wisdom and revelation
- Deep intimacy with Him
- Your inner core be enlightened by the Holy Spirit
- Hope that He has called you
- Your inheritance of spiritual wealth and riches
- Immeasurable and unlimited power

EPHESIANS 1:19-20 AMP

These are in accord with the working of His mighty strength which He produced in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 1:21-22 AMP

Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion whether angelic or human, and far above every name that is named above every title that can be conferred, not only in this age and world but also in the one to come. And He put all things in every realm in subjection under Christ's feet, and appointed Him as supreme and authoritative head over all things in the church.

**JESUS OVER
AUTHORITY (LORDSHIP)**

**AUTONOMY
(REBELION)**

**ALIGNMENT
(REPENTANCE)**

MYSELF

GOVERNMENT

FAMILY

CHURCH

REALMS

**There are only
ever two choices
repent or rebel.**

Au·ton·o·my:

**Self-determination, living by
self-rules or self-governing.**

“What we are experiencing is not the eradication of God from the Western mind, but rather the enthroning of the self as the greatest authority.”

– Mark Sayers, *Disappearing Church*

2 CORINTHIANS 7:10 NLT

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

Godly Sorrow = Repentance

“I’m sorry I lost my way”

Worldly Sorrow = Resentment

“I’m sorry I got caught”

**The greater the repentance,
the less the regrets.**

2 PETER 1:4 ESV

By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!

New creation = neos anthropos

“The normal human struggle is to look for identity horizontally when I was hardwired by God to get it vertically.”

– Paul Trip

**When we say Identity we
mean our “True Self”
over “False Self”.**

Where I understand my worth or value
Where I discover my purpose
Where I overcome my shame

SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORY

Therapy emerges as a new expert system to help people in the process of continual identity reconstruction.

This is both a source of exhilaration (we are free to construct ourselves) and anxiety (we really don't know who we are at the deepest level).

When you live “In Christ” your identity moves from insecurity to in-security.

I come under your **Authority**, not my **Autonomy**
I come under your **Truth**, not my **Opinions**
I come under your **Power**, not my **Potential**
I come under your **Purpose**, not my **Preferences**
I come under your **Promises**, not my **Promotions**
I come under your **Calling**, not my **Comfort**
I come under your **Faithfulness**, not my **Feelings**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5 CEV

We are not preaching about ourselves.
Our message is that Jesus Christ is Lord.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-10 NLT

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

**Here is the question:
Jesus identifies with you but
would you identify with Him?**

**When you Identify inwardly
it leads to Thriving.**

**When you identify outwardly
it leads to Glorifying.**

1 CORINTHIANS 11:28

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

Examine (dokimazō):
to make a critical examination
of something to determine the
genuineness.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith.

ROMANS 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

JESUS OVER AUTHORITY (LORDSHIP)

MY SHAME

MY REGRETS

MY EGO

MY PLANS

MY COMFORT

MY FAMILY

MY WORK

MY MONEY

MY HEALING

MY SINGLENESS

MY RELATIONSHIPS

MY TIME

MY HEART

MY POLITICS

MY SEXUALITY

MY FEELINGS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does being a Christian mean to you?
2. What promises belong to those who are believers in Jesus?
3. What areas of your life do you wrestle with being autonomous?
4. What areas of your life do you need to place under the authority of Jesus?
5. Take some time to examine your life and ask what needs to be an offering of surrender to the Lordship of Jesus. Find some time this week and share it.

