

A CHRISTIAN

Who is a Christian?

This comes from a Greek word *Christianos* whose suffix 'ianos' used to refer to slaves from a great/mighty family. This therefore means that Christians come from such and in particular family of God.

As noted in Mark 3:6, where those that used to listen and hid to the instructions of Herod, and push for his agenda and ideologies were referred to as Herodians, as such those committed to Christ, followers and adherents to Christ were called Christians. Adherents have faith or believe in something or someone hence called believers too. Those of Christ are seen in Acts 2:38-47; 38And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. with the traits below;

- i. Vs.38 they repent of their sins and so should be part the journey of any believer
- ii. Should be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (recall Matt.28:18-20, the great commission)
- iii. Free of sins, Holy Spirit only resides or abides in such individuals and the Holy Spirit inspires, renews, sanctifies. Teaches, reminds, rebukes, instructs, corrects, trains among others (2 Timothy 3:16, inspired word of God as written by humans)
- iv. Vs.39 saved by grace, obedience brings them to salvation. We don't choose God rather He does, when He does so and you decide to remain in your own ways, you don't benefit (John 15:16; ESV You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
- v. Vs.40 don't mind generational innovations rather those glorifying God (Rom.12:2; Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed

by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- vi. Vs.42 devout to God's teaching and fellowship
- vii. Breaking of bread implying Holy Communion (why, you who sincerely repent of your sins...)
- viii. Prayers (conversation between man God through the name of Jesus Christ, name above all, with authority both in Heaven and Earth
- ix. Vs.44 believers move together without discrimination neither classes or levels
- x. Vs.46 attend temple together/place of worship
- xi. Meet in homes and share what they have with glad and generous hearts
- xii. Vs.47 Praise God; components of praise include offering sacrifices (tithes, pledges, offertory, thanksgiving, harvest etc), physical movement (defined to stay in glory of God), silence and meditation (Psa.77:11-12), testimony (Psa.66:16), Prayer (Phi.4:6), Holy Life (1Pet.1:3-9)
- xiii. Continuous salvation confession paramount and adds to God's/Christ's number

The believers were first called Christians in Antioch as seen in Acts 11:26 due to the fact that their behavior, activities and speech were like Christ (Christ-like). To become such a person has lots of hardships even making such decisions not that easy (Acts 26:28)

A Christian lives though with some suffering for the glory of God (1 Pet.4:16). Different versions bring out the following; 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 16 But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian.

Therefore, a Christian should be an adherent of Christ living their daily lives and modeling their behavior ready to face adversity as Christ did.