

10 Christian Attributes

Introduction:

The Christian is one who has undergone a metamorphosis in life. The apostle Paul states that the Christian is one who gives “*thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love...*” (Col. 1:12-13). The word “*translated*” (*metestesen*) means to go from one state to another. A change has taken place in the life of one who would put on Christ through baptism (cf. Eph. 2:1-5). This lesson shall examine that change in light of answering the question; ‘what is the Christian?’

I. The Christian is one who believes in the reality of Jehovah:

- A. How can one please the heavenly Father without faith (Heb. 11:6)?
- B. God created the heavens and earth, their visage proves that God is (Ps. 19:1).
- C. God revealed himself through revelation to man, the word of God proves that God is (I Cor. 2:6-13; Gal. 1:11-12).
- D. God declares the end from the beginning and thereby proves that He is (Isa. 46:9-10).
 1. Jesus was foretold of coming into the world, He did, so God is (Isa. 7:14).
 2. Church foretold of coming into existence, it came, so God is (II Sam. 7:12ff).
 3. Future Christians were foretold of as individuals who would have their sins forgiven / God’s grace is here for all, therefore God is (Isa. 62:2; Jer. 31:31ff).

II. The Christian evidences their faith by obedience to God:

- A. The Christian’s obedience is evidence of their true faith (cf. Heb. 11:1-5).
- B. Consider Abraham (Gen. 15:6; 18:16-19; 22:18; Rom. 4:1-5; James 2:21-24).
- C. To believe is to obey (John 3:16, 36).

III. The Christian is a forgiven sinner:

- A. All sin (Rom. 3:23; I Jn. 1:8) and deserve death (Rom. 6:23).
- B. Sin separates man from God (Isa. 59:1-2; Ez. 28:15; I Cor. 6:15; I Jn. 1:5-6).
- C. The Christian is one who has been forgiven of sins through baptism and prayer (Acts 2:38; 8:22).
- D. Forgiveness equals reconciliation (Col. 1:19-22).
- E. The Christian lives in hope (Heb. 11:1).

IV. The Christian is a saint:

- A. The word “*saint*” (*hagios*) = “pure, righteous, holy, clean, moral purity” (Moulton 3).
- B. The gospel calls mankind to attain sainthood (cf. I Cor. 1:1-3).
- C. The gospel instructs man to attain perfection (Heb. 7:18-19; 10:1-4).

V. The Christian is a disciple (II Tim. 2:15).

- A. The word “*disciple*” (*mathetes*) means “a learner” (Strong’s # 3101).
- B. One who is a learner is one who must have desire through a fear of God (cf. Prov. 1:7). The disciple is one willing to hear and learn (Rom. 10:17). One can only become a Christian through hearing and learning (Jn. 6:44-45).
- C. The Christian learns about the gospel and lawful living (Eph. 4:17-20).
- D. The Christian learns how to distinguish between matters of indifference and matters of the faith (Rom. 14; I Cor. 6:12).
- E. The Christian learns how to bring glory to the name of God in this life (Jn. 15:7-10).
- F. The Christian learns how to worship God in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:23).
- G. The Christian learns how to have and maintain a godly home (Eph. 5-6).
- H. The Christian learns how to conduct self at the work place (Eph. 6:5ff).

VI. The Christian is one who displays a peculiar attitude toward sin:

- A. Though the world loves sins, the Christian hates it (Rom. 12:9).
- B. When sin occurs, the Christian is willing to humbly submit to God in prayer through a contrite disposition that forgiveness may be obtained (Ps. 51; Isa. 57:15; 66:2; Acts 8:22).

VII. The Christian has a peculiar character:

- A. The Christian is one who loves others. When others sin, the Christian recognizes the grave consequences and thereby exposes the sin (Acts 18:5-6; 20:26; Ezek. 3:16-19; 33:7-9; Isa. 26:1; 60:11, 18; 62:6-9; Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 16:13; I Thess. 5:6; Eph. 5:11).
- B. The Christian is compassionate and caring for others physical needs (James 1:27; 2:15-16; I Jn. 3:17-18).
- C. The Christian preaches and teaches others that their souls would be saved (Matt. 28:18; II Cor. 5:11; II Tim. 2:1-2).
- D. The Christian loves self (i.e., he is not willing to give up his eternal heavenly home for the passing pleasures of sin: cf. Heb. 11:24-26. Said Christian is not willing to cast away an eternal inheritance by teaching, upholding, supporting, and in any way being a party to false teaching / cf. II Cor. 2:17).

VIII. The Christian will suffer in this Life (I Thess. 3:1-4):

- A. The Christian will suffer physically (James 1:1ff).
- B. The Christian will suffer through being tempted (James 1:13ff).
- C. The Christian will suffer at the hands of sinful men (Jn. 15:17-23).

IX. The Christian is a happy Person:

- A. The Christian is a man or woman of purpose (i.e., to make it to heaven) (Phil. 4:4).
- B. The Christian will be joyously happy even when tried (Rom. 5:3-6).

X. The Christian is one who wants to avoid hell and be in heaven for eternity (Rev. 20:11-21:7, 27).

Conclusion:

A Christian is one of hope and purpose. The true concern of the Christian is making it to heaven. The Christian is one who has received the forgiveness of sins. He / she is one that desires others to be forgiven of their sins and thereby sows the seeds of the gospel. Love motivates the Christian's every action. The Christian learns and exhibits a peculiar character and attitude revealed in the truths of the gospel. Why don't you become a Christian today?