



“The Christian”

Sun July 20, 2025

I. **Acts 11:22-26**

A. The History

1. God never gave us this title....it came from man.
 - Historians agree that it was most likely meant as an insult or in a derogatory way instead of a compliment.
 - “Look over there...that’s one of those Christ-followers (Christian).”
2. No matter how the name was intended, it stuck and became our name. 2 other times, the term “Christian” is mentioned in the Bible
 - **Acts 26:28** “Almost you persuade me to be a Christian.”
 - **I Peter 4:16** “If any man suffer as a Christian....” (By this time, the name was a part of Christ’s people, His followers forever).

B. Who does God call us?

1. The Most common and obvious name was “Disciple” (**A Pupil or Learner; A Person who follows or adheres to the beliefs of a particular teacher**).
2. **Saints, Believers, Followers, Brothers and Sisters, People of God, The Elect, Kings and Priests, Chosen, The Righteous, The Faithful, The Redeemed, Heirs, Joint-Heirs, My Sheep, Sons and Daughters....Children of God.**

C. The Purpose of this Message (Series)

1. The title “Christian” has lost its meaning....
2. Even though it was not given by God, we carry the name; and if we carry the name we should be what the name signifies; We Are Followers of Christ!
3. The Holy Spirit is doing a mighty work in His church today....and we will bring back the power to His name; We have the honor of carrying that name....so let’s find out what it takes and live up to the standard and expectations of what it means.

II. The Standard

A. **Separate, Different, Better, Best**

1. If these are the qualities we identify with Jesus, then why should the church be at a lower standard (“I could never be like Jesus” – then stop following Him!)
2. **II Corinthians 6:14-18**
 - I don’t have to fit in the crowd to “feel” or be accepted.
 - A “Christian” should be different...better, above and beyond....Separate

B. People are watching....what are they seeing?

1. **Acts 4:13** “Boldness....they took note that they had been with Jesus.”
2. Are people seeing the fruit of the Spirit or something else? **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith**

C. **Daniel 6:4-5**

1. This should be our goal....Evaluate, Make Changes, Hold Fast to the Promise!
2. This should be our life!