



I. **Ephesians 5:1-4**

A. What is a Christian? (The Question we asked the last 3 weeks).

1. **Follower of God**

- **Imitator**
- **Doing what He did** (WWJD – At the forefront of every situation, a mature Christian should always ask this...what would Jesus Do...then follow His lead).
- 2. Learning to follow Him as a Child instead of a servant.
 - Servants do not know their father's will.
 - Only Children are allowed to come to the table and dine. (Last week: **Most know Him as savior; Few know Him as Lord; Only the Chosen know Him as Friend....**)

B. What Separates You (What makes you different)?

1. **Submission – James 4:7**

- The Response to His Goodness
- 2 attributes of a mature follower (a true Christian): **1.) Hear the Voice of God and 2.) Obey** (“What do I need to know and What do I need to do?”)
- **Luke 6:46-49**

2. **Love (John 13:35 / 1 John 4:7-8)**

- If you want to be different...if you want to be a Christian...learn how to love.
- This is also why Jesus said, *“Love your enemies, do good, and pray for those who work against you.”* Why? SO YOU CAN BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH!

3. **Faith (Hebrews 11:6)**

- BELIEVER – What do you believe?
- Moment of Truth: Most people believe that God exists, but do not believe that He is **PRESENT** IN THEIR LIVES (BELIEVE THAT HE IS...), and they certainly don't believe that He rewards them because they think when bad things happen to good people it must be a part of His plan.
- Have Faith in God...this is not hope....but knowing that you know!
- What Do You Know?

4. **Carrying The Cross** (All 3 summed up in one)(**Matthew 16:24-25**)

- Most people have the wrong idea about what this means: I hear people say things when dealing with circumstances or situations that are troubling them in life... *“Well that's my cross to bear”* or *“That's my burden, my cross I must carry.”*
- The Cross represented one thing in the days of Jesus: Death...and everyone knew what it meant. What was Jesus telling us? “If you want to

follow Me...it is a call to self-sacrifice; you must be willing to die to yourself in order to be His disciple. A good example of this is the 3 people that said they wanted to be followers of Jesus, but none of them when it came down to it were serious enough to crucify their on interests upon the cross.

- So What is Christianity? Following One Thing: The Interests of Jesus!

II. Walking in Revelation / Becoming His Church

A. **Matthew 16:15-19**

1. First you must know Who Jesus is

- Not A Surface-Level Walk With God: If you are a surface-level Christian, when then enemy tries to bring trials and difficulty, you will lose your faith and question God every time.
- Knowing Jesus must be intentional....and guess what? Jesus loves spending time with you!

2. Once you get to know Him, He changes your identity (Most people never know who they are in Christ today).

B. Upon this rock, I will build my church...

1. Our idea of church is a building...."I go to World Victory Church", or "I go to a Baptist or Methodist or Pentecostal Church."

2. The word church is the word **"ekklesia" – a calling out, an assembly**

- The Early church was born on the day of Pentecost *"They were ASSEMBLED TOGETHER in one place"*.
- Do you know where people assembled in the early days? Homes (**I Corinthians 16:9, Colossians 4:15**). (Early persecution caused them many times to gather in secret) (It was in Syria around 230 AD when the first building for a church was built that was originally a house).

3. The importance of **Matthew 18:20 and Hebrews 10:24-25**

- There are so many people who are not a part of God's church...gathering of people (and NO, ONLINE CHURCH DOES NOT COVER YOU!) ("I don't do organized religion..." comment – "I don't either; I have an organized relationship!")
- We need each other to encourage and strengthen and fulfill our calling in life.
- What is the church? God's people, His assembly of Children who are followers of Jesus. We are the light of the world, the salt of the earth.
- I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!