

Who are these people called Christians?

The Old and New Testaments were written as the source for Christian living, and clearly spell out requirements for obedience, rewards, and consequences of disobedience.

Believers who follow Jesus were first called Christians in Antioch (now located in south central Turkey) in the first century AD. Acts 11:26.

The word Christian may be used by some today in a broad sense that tends to identify with a broad concept called Christianity without respect to what is specifically required of the individual.

According to the Bible, being a Christian involves more than just believing what we hear about Jesus. Saying the sinner's prayer is the beginning. A Christian also changes his/her lifestyle and obeys as a result of true repentance. James puts it this way: *James 2:19-24 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.*

There are those who believe works are not necessary for salvation, and those who believe they are.

What we should diligently seek is what the Bible actually says about being a Christian.

Here are a few of the things a Christian does.

Asks Jesus for salvation. John 3:16

Obeys what Jesus commands. Matthew 7:21-23

Seeks a personal relationship with God. John 14:15-17

No longer follows the ways of the world. Romans 12:2

Adds works to faith. James 1:22-25

Loves God, neighbors AND enemies. (Committed to their wellbeing without requiring anything in return) . Matthew 22:36-40, Matthew 5:43-44

Fears God (Is not afraid of Him but fears being separated from Him) Matthew 10:28

Learns and grows. 2 Peter 1:5-10

Uses tools (armor of God) to resist evil. Ephesians 6:10-18

Seeks Gods Kingdom and his righteousness, Matthew 6:33... and is content with what God provides, Philippians 4:11

Gets along with others if possible. Romans 12:18

Resolves conflicts peacefully when necessary. Matthew 5:9

Strives to be like Jesus and do what He would do. Matthew 11:27-29

The Bible does not tell us everything, only what we need to know to live a Christian life based on the life of Jesus and his teachings.

John 21:25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Other articles and links on this site contain more detailed reference material that may be helpful to those who would like more information about what is written here.

Walking with Jesus is a 19 page booklet of one person's personal search for what is involved in being a Christian <http://www.worksandfaith.org/walkwithjesus.pdf>

Thoughts by John Oliver
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