

Be Who You Say You Are

"Christian" (*Christianos*, meaning "belonging to Christ" or "follower of Christ")

"Be" -Verb: to exist, to live, to have a specific state or quality, or identity

Many today proclaim Christianity and to be the followers of Christ. Yet their Faith, Behavior, Speech, and Works do not edify that claim. Today many so-called Christians hold beliefs anathema to God's Word and His proclaimed truth. Many have claimed Christianity, yet doubt the word of God, their truth is relative, while God's is absolute. What God calls sin is no longer seen as sin by many so-called believers. They claim to follow Christ with their mouth's, yet their hearts are far from Him.

Isaiah 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Matthew 15:8-9 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Mark 7:6-7 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. 7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Many profess a belief and a faith in Jesus Christ, but their behavior and doctrine show no evidence of it. Their spirit is not aligned with the spirit of God. Their doctrines and worship are contrary to God's Word. They claim salvation through Jesus; yet they show no evidence of being grounded in the Grace and Truth of His Word. If one is to be who they say they are; they must have:

FAITH IN CHRIST

Romans 10: 9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Many confess with their mouth but there is no belief in their heart. Salvation bears fruit and obedience to God's Word. God's Word transforms and renews sinful man. It brings about humility, a compassion for others, and it brings about the mind of Christ in the believer; to see others as Christ sees them.

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THE MIND OF CHRIST

Philippians 2:3-5 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The followers of Jesus Christ should have the mind of Christ esteeming others before themselves. The mind of Christ sees others as Christ sees them. The mind of Christ is a mind of humility and compassion for a lost and dying world.

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If one claims Christ they must be:

TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Conformed- G4964 *Suschēmatizō* To fashion alike, that is conform to the same pattern

To be conformed to this world is to be molded into the pattern of this world system from the external pressures of the prevailing culture. Perhaps the greatest danger is the passiveness of it. If one does nothing to fight against the world system then the mind will be stamped into the shape and conformed to the prevailing culture.

Transformed-G3339 *metamorphoo* to transform, change, transfigure, transform

To be transformed is to be changed internally. This transformation is internal and radiates outward unlike conformity which changes outwardly and radiates inward. To be transformed requires you to yield the human spirit, soul, and flesh to the Holy Spirit and the mind of God. This inward transformation then radiates outward against the conformity of the world system.

The follower of Jesus should not be conformed to the pattern of this world and shaped by the culture of it. If we truly hold dear the Word of God we will live by it, proclaim it, be doers of it, forsaking the world and claiming Christ.

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LIVE YOUR CONFESSION (Even under pressure)

I Timothy 6: 12-13 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

Believers are to live their Faith publicly that others may see Christ in them through word and deed. Fighting the good fight of Faith in a world that seeks to conform the believer to its culture and spirit. The believer is to separate oneself from the spirit of the age and be a witness for Christ; living their confession publicly and unashamed of the Gospel letting their light shine.

Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

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To follow Christ, one must

WALK IN FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

If we are to be who we say we are in Christ; then we must walk as Christ did in Forgiveness and Peace.

Colossians 3:12-14 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

The believer is called to walk in forgiveness and peace; showing the love of Christ. As Christ forgave us, we must forgive others. The believer cannot be a slave to bitterness and a prisoner under the yoke of an unforgiving heart; which hinders the work of Christ in us and through us. As we are forgiven, we must also forgive and in doing so we are free to show the love of Christ to others.

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COMPASSION WITH CONFESSION (Love in Deed and Truth)

I John 3:17-18 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Those who confess Christ as LORD, must have compassion with their confession; living their Faith in Love, Truth, and Deed. If God dwelleth in us, His love must also dwell in us.

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WALK AS JESUS WALKED

I John 2:3-6 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked

God's word tells us that if we know Him we will keep His commandments. A verbal profession without behavioral transformation is self-deception. To possess Christ is to walk as He walked and be transformed and renewed by the Holy Spirit. If there is no behavioral change, desire for the Word of God, compassion for the lost, and a desire to keep His commandments we have deceived ourselves.

A Christian should have a desire to keep God's commandments.

I John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

I John 2:7-9 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. 8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. 9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

I John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked

DO YOU CALL HIM LORD?

Matthew 26:20-22 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. 21 And as they did eat, he said, **Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.** 22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

At the Passover Supper Jesus sits with the disciples. They are made aware of the coming betrayal by one of them. They question their own hearts as to who it might be; asking Jesus Lord, is it I? They trust Jesus' discernment more than their own. It is telling that eleven of the disciples respond by calling Jesus Lord.

Lord - kurios-G2962: supreme in authority, God, Lord, Master

For in their hearts Jesus is their Lord and Master.

Matthew 26:23-24 And he answered and said, **He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.** 24 **The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.**

Jesus indicates that the betrayer is one of them and has a close relationship with Him, indicated by the fact that 'he dippeth his hand with me in the dish'. It is interesting to note that none of the other disciples suspected Judas, so well had his hypocrisy been hidden. They thought of him as one of them. The hypocrite can hide well under the cover of feigned words and empty works.

Matthew 26:25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, **Thou hast said.**

In this discourse eleven of the disciples call Jesus Lord. Judas is the only one that calls Jesus' Master'

Master - rhabbi-G4461: master, official title of honor

There is a difference between Lord and Master. The eleven disciples that called Jesus Lord recognized Him as the supreme authority in their lives, He was their God, Lord, and Master. Judas called Him Master, giving Him honor as a great teacher, but not submitting to His Lordship over his life. Master is the same title given to Jesus by the 'rich young man'

Matthew 19:16-22 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.** 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, **Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,** 19 **Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21 Jesus said unto him, **If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.** 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

The rich young man professed a desire to follow Jesus until he had to give up his possessions. He called Jesus Good Master yet walked away from Him. Judas professed to follow Jesus but betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver. Many today betray Jesus for much less.

Judas professed Jesus a master, a title of earthly honor, but not of divine authority and Lordship. Many claim Christianity, yet do not follow the ways of Jesus. They give lip service but not heart service. They do not live what they proclaim.

A Christian's foundational identity rests on trust in God, humility, and an intentional alignment of thoughts with divine truth.

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I will close with a question that Jesus poses. The question will reveal hypocrisy in the heart, it will cause one to self-reflect, and come to the realization of are you being who you say you are?

Luke 6:46 And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**

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JESUS SAVES-To God be the Glory

A man of dust