

A Christian

Consulting Webster's dictionary we find this definition of the word Christian: "One who professes to believe, or is assumed to believe, in the religion of Christ; especially one whose inward and outward life is conformed to the doctrine of Christ." The word doctrine is defined thus: "The act of teaching, instruction, discipline." Therefore a Christian would be, especially one whose inward and outward life is conformed to the teaching, instruction and discipline of Christ.

The first part of the definition gives much room for the various organizations to call themselves Christian; in fact it gives room for the assumption that most any one who professes Christianity is a Christian. The latter part of this definition gives no room for such assumption, and conforms to the words of Christ who said to His disciples: "If any man will come after Me let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." Matthew 17: 24

A Christian will be one who, when he stands before the judgment seat of God, will hear the King say, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25: 34

A profession to believe in Christ or an assumption to believe; uniting with a church; being baptized; partaking of the communion, or in fact anything which man may do of himself, will not be sufficient to enable the soul to obtain this blessing.

A moral, upright, honest life has in itself no promise in the word of God of obtaining this blessing; for it does not accept Christ as the only means of obtaining salvation. "For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4: 12

The one whose inward and outward life is conformed to the doctrine of Christ and is not conformed to this world, but is transformed by the renewing of the mind, that he may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God, -- has the promise.

He will heed the words of the Savior, "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6: 24. Therefore a Christian who is serving in the Kingdom of God cannot serve in the kingdom or government of this world. If he would heed the commands, "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you," (Matthew 5: 44); Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head" (Romans 12: 20), -- a Christian would not destroy his enemies by going to war with them.

Peter's admonition, "Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting of the hair, and wearing of gold, or putting on of apparel," would preclude the conforming to the fashions of this world in dressing the hair, bodily array or dress.

John wrote to the believers: "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His

commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” I John 2: 3,4. Again, “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because darkness hath blinded his eyes.” I John 2: 9, 11.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world. And the world passes away with the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.” I John 2: 15, 17.

“And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right unto the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelations 22: 12, 14.

From the testimony of God’s word, to be a Christian, one’s life, both inwardly and outwardly, must conform to the doctrine of Christ. We cannot depend upon a profession or assumption as a sufficient ground for the salvation of our souls.

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E.F.S.