

The Making of a Christian

Introduction

INVITATION SONG: "Why Keep Jesus Waiting"

1. **When the tower of Babel was being constructed God confused their language. Before this happened everyone could understand each other. (*"Had one language and one speech"* Gen 11:1) But then God confused their language and that is still "modern history".**
2. **People grossly misuse the name "Christian". The name belongs to an individual, not nations of people, such as "Christian nation".**
3. **In this lesson today we will look at how a Christian is made. But before we do, let's first set forth who is not a "Christian".**

Who Is Not a Christian

1. Not all “good people”.

A. Morality is the obligation of a Christian but that does not make them a Christian.

1) **Cornelius, a good man, but had to hear “words” to be saved (Acts 11:14).**

2) **Nicodemus, good man, but had to be “born again” (John 3:5).**

2. Not all “religious people”.

A. Some heathens are religious.

Acts 17:22-23 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

B. Any religious person that calls themselves a “Christian” and was not made that way based upon the Lord’s teaching.

C. “Joining” a church does not make one a Christian.

The Making of a Christian

1. A Christian is one who has been born twice. Jesus said:

John 3:3-5 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** and **the Spirit**, he **cannot** enter the kingdom of God.

A. Nicodemus knew something about a fleshly birth, but at first did not grasp the idea of a spiritual birth.

- 1) **All responsible and accountable people know something about the fleshly birth. There is first a begetting (planting of a seed) and then a bringing forth.**
- 2) **So it is with a spiritual birth. We are begotten (planting of a seed "the Word") by the Spirit and brought forth from a watery grave.**

a) How are we begotten by the Spirit?

1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God...

James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth....

b) We see that we are begotten (conceived) by the "Word of Truth". Paul says:

1 Corinthians 4:15 for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

B. When Jesus says we cannot do something that is just the way it is. He says we cannot enter the kingdom without being born of the water and the Spirit.

1) But if we are born again, we can enter the kingdom. The kingdom is in existence, and we can enter into it if we obey Christ.

2. After one is born into the kingdom what name does he wear?

A. What name do you wear in your own physical family?

B. Those in the kingdom take the name our Father has named his children. Before Christians were on earth Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 62:2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name.

1) We learn that there would be a time when the Lord's people were going to be called by a new name and it would be given by the Lord.

Acts 11:26....And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

a) Isaiah said they would "be called" and Luke writes they "were called" (The prophecy was fulfilled).

C. God's people honor their Head by wearing this name. There is no salvation offered in any other name but in Christ.

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1) When we are saved in Christ, through obedience to His teaching, then we have the right to wear **His name.**

3. The name Christian is used three times in the New Testament. We saw it first used in Acts 11:26. Its next occurrence is in Acts 26:28.

A. Paul had been preaching the gospel to King Agrippa:

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

1) Agrippa knew that if he had obeyed the gospel that Paul was preaching that it would make him a Christian.

a) It will do the very same thing today!

B. Paul preached the death of Christ for our sins, his burial, and his resurrection. He taught people to believe in Christ, to repent of their sins, to confess the name of Christ, and to be buried by baptism for the remission of sins.

1) Notice what Paul said concerning these things:

Acts 16:31 So they said, "**Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be **saved**, you and your household."

Acts 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Romans 10:9-10 that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be **saved**. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 6:3-5 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

4. The last time Christian is used is in 1 Peter 4:16.

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

A. Once we are born into the family of God, the kingdom of God, we are Christians. If we are living as Christians should, we will suffer some for it.

1) It costs something to be a Christian. A true Christian is a disciple of Jesus. Jesus said concerning those that would be his followers:

Matthew 10:32-38

Luke 9:62 ..."No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

B. We should understand that it takes a commitment on our part to serve Jesus. Are we willing to make that commitment?

1) The name of Christ that we wear should really mean something to each one of us. His name is above every other name:

Philippians 2:9-11

C. May God help each one of us to honor the name of Christ by wearing it and living up to it!

Conclusion

1. **Have you been made a Christian based upon Christ's teaching?**
 - A. **Begotten by the Word**
 - B. **Born Again "Christian"**
 - C. **Will Suffer FOR Christ**
2. **If you are not a Christian, why is it that you are waiting to wear the greatest name of all and to be added to the kingdom of God?**
3. **Jesus is waiting to receive you this very moment into His church if you will come and obey His will for you.**
4. **WHY KEEP JESUS WAITING?**

