



“What is a Christian?”



QUESTION BACKGROUND: A distraught mother contacted me because her child’s teacher told the child that she wasn’t a Christian if she didn’t go to church. The child is a student at a fundamentalist Christian school which bases its beliefs on the Bible, under the paradigm of 'sola scriptura'¹. The mother asked me the question, “Is what the teacher said correct?” To answer her question properly, I needed to uncover for her what a Christian really is. This exposé answers that question. (The answer to her question is located [here](#).)



MY BACKGROUND: I was born into the Methodist church, which morphed into the Uniting Church Australia. I spent a short time in the Anglican church, then in pentecostal and charismatic churches. I came out of the church system in 1987 and was told by Father that I would not enter my destiny if I didn’t leave. In 2010, after many decades following church teaching as my plumbline, I was introduced to the Kingdom by Myles Munroe and have been allowing Father to train me as a son ever since. With that background, I write what I know of Christianity from experience and observation, even if the majority of Christendom disagrees with me.



According to the beliefs of evangelical² Christians, a Christian is a person who has Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. They have come into this position as a consequence of praying the “sinner’s prayer”³ and through water baptism.

Two points need to be noted here.

1. The “sinner’s prayer” is a modern ‘invention’. Paul Harrison Chitwood, in his doctoral thesis on the history of the Sinner’s Prayer, showed that it originated in the early 20th century.⁴ The use of this prayer to establish conversion was brought into prominence through Billy Graham’s crusades, by Campus Crusade for Christ and by televangelists. Quite commonly, the prayer is recited at the conclusion of religious or public services as part of an altar call.⁵ NOTE: The technique is not one that the foundational believers in the 1st century used.
2. Baptism is NOT essential for Salvation. Water baptism is a choice of the Christian to undertake, even if pressure is applied to do it. (*More on that elsewhere*)

The effect of reciting the “sinner’s prayer” is said to confer on the new believer the status of being “born again”^{6,7}. Importantly, there’s more to being “born again” than achieving the status of a Christian.⁸

Being “born again” is a spiritual event for a Christian, but what happens next to the believer is religious. Following their spiritual rebirth (i.e. being “born from above”), they are converted from atheism or another religion, into the Christian religion. Everything that follows in their Christian life is man-made and part of belonging to the Christian religion and to a religious organisation of one kind or another. There will be some genuine spiritual activity involved in what they do, but it’s always actions decreed by the organisation to which they belong.

With all that grounding in what a Christian is, how does Father see it? After all, the work of the Cross was his idea, to implement his purposes.

1 – SEE: “What Happens if We Lose *Sola Scriptura*”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/What-Happens-if-We-Lose-Sola-Scriptura.pdf

2 – A term describing denominations of fundamentalist, Protestant Christians. It includes Methodists, Baptists, Pentecostals and Charismatics, as well as many others. These focus on, and stick to, Bible study and biblical teaching.

3 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinner%27s_prayer

4 – Paul Harrison Chitwood (2001) “The Sinners Prayer: A Historical and Theological Analysis” faithsaves.net/the-sinners-prayer

5 – MODIFIED: Paragraph from en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinner%27s_prayer

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6 – John 3:3, 7; 1 Peter 1:23

7 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Born_again

8 – SEE: “A Different Take On: Being Born Again” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/A-Different-Take-On-Being-Born-Again.pdf

The Kingdom Reality

Jesus never came to start a new religion. He came to re-introduce the Kingdom of Heaven back onto Earth, just like it was before The Fall. This Kingdom was to have him as King, and his people as vice-regents (i.e. princes) ruling and managing Earth as Adam originally did.

Christians are members of this Kingdom because Jesus is said to be their King of Kings and Lord of Lords. They are also relying on his death and resurrection to have their sins forgiven, to become members of “the Body of Christ”, and to go to Heaven when they die. Unfortunately, that means what they believe is a mixture of religion and spiritual reality, because not everything believed lines up with the Kingdom and the mind of the King.

From Heaven’s perspective, what we believe, what we become and what we do, must be based on spiritual reality. If it doesn’t, then it has no place in the Kingdom of God on Earth, and definitely not in Heaven. More importantly, everything must originate in Heaven (i.e. be based on a blueprint from Heaven), otherwise it is foreign to the Kingdom. That means, anything people make up (invent or build) which doesn’t come from such a blueprint, is not approved by Father. These ‘inventions’ are the things that Jesus called “hay, straw and stubble”, which won’t move with the Kingdom into the next Age.

As Christianity (the Christian religion) was not instituted from Heaven’s blueprint like the Israelite tabernacle and temple were, it’s outside of the Kingdom.⁹ That means a Christian needs to be consciously careful where they stand spiritually, irrespective of what Christianity says. The reason for that is it’s what the Trinity thinks that’s critically important, not what church leaders teach.

The reality, then, is this: When a person accepts the work that Jesus accomplished, and acknowledge him as the rightful King, they are adopted back into Father’s family as a son. That sonship is independent of the person’s gender, because it reflects the type of relationship they have with Father, and has nothing to do with their sex. That’s it, full stop. This sonship is not worked for, bought or conferred. It’s a gift from Father that’s available to every person on Earth, irrespective of who they are or their social status.

As sons, our allegiance is to the King (and to Father), not to any religious organisation. For sons, it can never be about Christianity or denominations, because they have nothing to do with the Kingdom. Like what political party we support, what business employs us, what clubs we belongs to, etc., religion is a societal thing that belongs to the natural realm, not the Kingdom. Those belong to the world system and that system will eventually be eliminated by the Kingdom as it expands and fills the whole Earth.

To round things off, a Christian is a member of the Christian religion which is not part of the Kingdom. The person will most likely be a son of God because they have initially acknowledged Jesus as King and have chosen to submit to him, no one else. That’s the important point for each of us. After that, it’s irrelevant whether we belong to a church organisation or any specific denomination. It’s also irrelevant what they do within those entities and whether they adhere to the entity’s tenets or not.

The important thing is whether the person becomes a son by coming into the Kingdom, Father’s way. That then means they will align with him and follow the King as their first and foremost responsibility.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

9 – SEE: “QUESTION - Are Church Meetings Mandatory”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/QUESTION-Are-Church-Meetings-Mandatory.pdf