

Some Christians I Know

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we must be a true Christian to inherit eternal life.
2. Word Christian used 3 times
 - a. Acts 11:26 Acts 26:28 1 Pet. 4:16
 - b. Christian means one who is a follower, imitator of Christ
3. There are many who call themselves "Christian" in this country.
 - a. With many brands of Christians or denominational Christians
 - b. According to the N.T. we are just plain Christians:
 - i. Matt. 16:18
 - ii. Col. 1:18 - Head of body, the church
 - iii. Eph. 4:4
 - c. If we were living in the year 106 AD in stead of 2006 AD there would be only Christians - no denominational churches were in existence.
4. But there are some other words which can describe some of the "so-called" Christians I know!

Discussion

I. USE - TO - BE CHRISTIANS

- A. These are called
 1. Erring Christians
 - a. Jas. 1:16
 - b. Jas. 5:19-20 err = wander lead astray
 2. Backslider - Hosea 4:16 - stubborn, rebellious

B. These are people who at one time were Children of God, but have turned away

1. II Pet. 2:20-22
2. It is worse for these because they have known better
3. Col. 4:14 - 2 Tim. 4:10 - Demas is an example of a "used - to - be" Christian

II. Part - Of - The Time Christians

A. These are people who are:

1. Christians only when it's convenient
2. Are Christians when it can help them

B. These people never

1. Become too involved in the work of the church
2. Get really interested

C. God tells us to take up our cross daily

1. Not just occasionally or whenever we want to
2. Luke 8:14
3. Luke 9:23
4. Ruth 1:16-17
5. If you are not a Christian all the time, then you are not a Christian any time.

III. The - Never - Was Christian

A. These are people who are Christians in name only

1. It takes more than the outward acts to be a Christian
2. There must be something that takes place within the heart

- B. Some never were Christians except in name only
 - 1. They were not converted
 - 2. They obeyed for some other reason - to please family, friends, fire insurance, business interests
 - 3. We must obey from the heart - Rom. 6:17

IV. SOME "D" CHRISTIANS I KNOW

- A. Dwarfed = a person below the usual stature
 - 1. Heb. 5:12-6:1
 - 2. Midget Christians - stunted in their growth
 - 3. We have many spiritual dwarves and not enough spiritual giants

- B. Drowsy - [sleepy - half - hearted]
 - 1. These people do not put very much into their Christianity
 - 2. Lukewarm is the word describing them - Rev. 3:15-16
 - 3. Eccl. 9:10

- C. Dissentious
 - 1. Fussy - always looking for something to quarrel about or get mad about
 - 2. These are trouble makers and trouble finders
 - 3. Matt. 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

V. SOME "U" CHRISTIANS I KNOW

A. Unoccupied

1. These do nothing at all
2. Idle = not producing fruit
3. Prov. 19:15

B. Unholy

1. Worldly and sinful church members
2. These want to be a member of the church and still enjoy all the pleasures of the sinful world
3. James 1:27 - pure religion is unspotted from the world

VI. THE - TRUE - CHRISTIAN

A. This is a person who

1. Is a "Here - and - Now" Christian
 - a. He does not wait until some later time
 - b. He is taking up his cross daily now and living for Christ
2. He is the "full - time" Christian - not just part of the time
3. He is a "genuine - from the heart" Christian - not just making a show
4. He is a Spiritual Giant - who is wide awake and working to live as God directs

B. These are people who were:

1. Born again - John 3:3
2. He is growing - 2 Pet. 1:5-11 - adding the Christian Graces
3. He is producing fruit
 - a. John 15:8 "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

b. Gal. 5:22-23

4. He is ever - learning by doing God's will

CONCLUSION

1. What kind of Christian are you ?
 - a. Use-to-be
 - b. Part-of-the-time
 - c. Never-was
 - d. D = dwarfed, drowsy, dissentious
 - e. U = unoccupied, unholy
 - f. True Christian
2. There are some people who can be called "After - A - While" Christian
 - a. They are waiting for a more convenient season - Acts 24:25 "Go for the present, but, when I find an opportunity, I will send for you again." TCNT
 - b. They are too busy right now
 - c. They plan to become a Christian some time, but not right now
 - d. I I Cor. 6:2 "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
 - e. Poem - I'll Change Someday
3. According to the Bible there is only one kind of a Christian - The true Christian
 - a. You need to be a Christian
 - b. Then you will have a happy life now as you serve God on this earth
 - c. Then you have the hope of an eternal life with God in Heaven