



# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12

### July 21, 2024

## What is a Christian?

### Contact Us

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### Links

- Email
- Website
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- Previous Lessons

Text your prayer requests any time

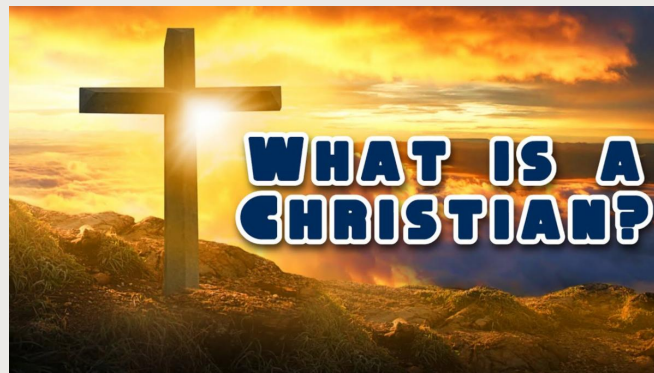


### Foster Care Teens

**Personal Care Items**  
We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our

See the sidebar for our new TEXT Prayer Request Line!  
Simply text "I need prayer" to 844-533-3553 anytime, and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

### Sunday



## What is a Christian?

Last Sunday, we talked about what a Christian is. We started by saying that if you ask a bunch of random people in the street, you'll get a variety of different answers. Some may give positive answers such as people who are loving, nice, or follow Jesus. Others may give negative answers such as people who are judgemental, self-righteous, or even mean. Still others give somewhat neutral answers such as people who go to Church all the time.

We looked in the dictionary to find that a Christian is a person who believes in Jesus Christ and follows His teachings.

We said that's a pretty simple definition and being a Christian is so much more than just believing in and following Jesus.

We looked in the Bible and found that the word Christian only appears a couple of times in **Acts** and its use was more of a derogatory word used as an insult (similar to how some people use the word today). Most

youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

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**This Week's Bible Verse**

## **Luke 6:40**

<sup>40</sup> The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

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of the time they were just referred to as Disciples or Followers of Jesus of Nazareth.

We also found that that Jesus' followers usually referred to themselves as "believers" or "brothers/sisters". Jesus was usually referred to as Rabbi or Teacher.

We talked a bit about growing up as a Jewish boy in Jesus' time and the importance of learning the Torah to hopefully do well enough in school to be accepted by a Rabbi as his disciple. Your other option would be to learn a trade (usually the family business) such as fishing or stone carving or carpentry, etc.

We said that the relationship between a Rabbi and his Disciple was so much more than a simple teacher and student. The Rabbi and his Disciple form a life-long close personal relationship with the mutual goal of the student one day becoming just like the teacher and continuing the teacher's work.

We talked about how the Disciples that Jesus chose to follow Him were all working in a trade which would imply that none of them were the best students. But, Jesus did not choose His Disciples for their outstanding knowledge of Torah but for what was in their heart.

This tells us that God's Kingdom is not only for the self-righteous or religious elite. God welcomes everyone into His Kingdom no matter who they are or what they are doing because He sees what is in our heart.

**Luke 6:40** tells us that everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. So, as followers of Jesus, our goal is to **one day be like Jesus**.

We said that as Christians, we are God's representatives on Earth. We said that most people will never even open a Bible, let alone read and understand it. They're only exposure to God and who He is, is watching how Christians live. Our actions, especially when under difficult times, tell them all they will know about being a Christian, whether it's good or bad.

In **John 13**, Jesus tells us that people will know we are His followers by our love for one another. Just as Jesus was a reflection of God's love, Christians are a reflection of God's love in both our words and in our actions.

Of course, being a Christian also means you have been forgiven for all sins so that we can boldly go to God, without fear but with confidence to receive His

grace and mercy.

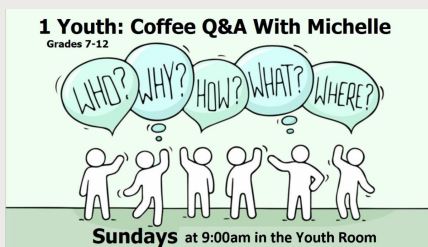
We said that perhaps one of the greatest things about being a Christian is that not only are you saved for all eternity (a really long time), but you are a chosen child of God who can receive all of God's blessings and all of His promises right now, today, while you're still here, to help you live your amazing life to the fullest.

We can also live today with God's peace in our hearts no matter what our circumstances are or whatever environment we find ourselves in. We can be free from stress, fear, anxiety, doubt, etc.

We also said that being a Christian means you are a "**work in progress**", doing your best every day to one day be like Jesus. You probably won't do it right every day but that's okay because tomorrow is a new day with another chance to try again. God only needs us to trust Him and keep trying.

Ultimately, the real answer to "**What is a Christian**", comes from within yourself as a believer, as what you truly believe in your own heart and in how you express yourself as God's representative on Earth.

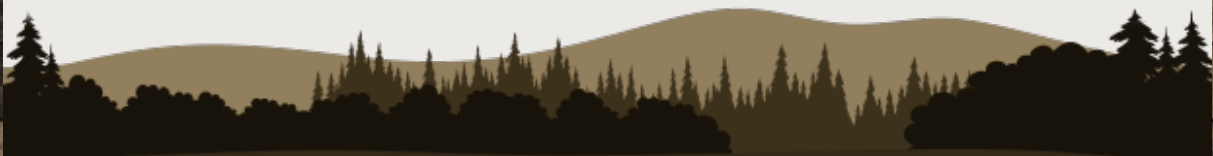
So, if someone asks you what a Christian is, you can say that being a Christian is so much more than just believing in Jesus or going to Church. You can also take the opportunity to tell them that if they would like to know more, you would be happy to tell them all about it. With Love and Respect (1 Peter 3:15)



## Pre-Service Coffee Q&A

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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