

## Question: what is a Christian?

**Answer (first part):** a Christian is a person in whom God has *done* the following:

- Has given birth to new life,

*John 1:13* who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

*John 3:5-6* Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- **Convincing /convicting** him that:

*John 16:7-11* Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

### 1<sup>st</sup> He is a **sinner**: one who disobeys God in thought/word/deed

*Mark 7:20-23* And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

*James 1:14-15* But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> God will **judge** him: He is just and so must punish sin

*Psalms 7:11* God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

*Romans 2:1-5* Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man- you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself- that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Jesus can **save** him: He is the God-man who redeems because He:

- **Lived**: Jesus' perfect obedience can be his **obedience**

*Hebrews 4:15* For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

*Philippians 3:9* and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-

- **Died**: Jesus' death can be his **punishment**

*Romans 5:8* but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*1 Peter 3:18* For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

- **Rose**: Jesus' rising to life from death can be his **eternal life**

*1 John 5:11* And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

*Philippians 3:10-11* that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- **Rules**: Jesus' reign as king over all can be his **power in life**

*Ephesians 2:4-6* But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

*Hebrews 4:16* Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Answer, (second part):** a Christian is a person in whom God has done all this with the **result** that he:

- **Believes** these things are true and,

*John 1:12* But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

- **Professes** his belief in his words/life

*Romans 10:9-10* because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

*Matthew 7:16-20* You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.