

What Kind of Church?
Brand Recognition
August 7, 2022

“Christian” is only used three times in the entire New Testament.

So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. (Acts 11:26)

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?” (Acts 26:28)

“Christians were viewed as threats to the state not because of what they believed. Christians were viewed as threats to the state because of who they chose to obey.” –Andy Stanley

Worship your Christ. Obey Caesar.

In the first century, no one asked Christians if they were Christian. They were *accused* of it.

*However, if you suffer as a **Christian**, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. (1 Peter 4:16)*

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make **disciples** of all nations... (Matthew 28:18-19)*

Disciple is a term used 269 times in the Bible.

*So the word of God spread. The number of **disciples** in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)*

*Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s **disciples**. (Acts 9:1)*

*When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the **disciples**, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a **disciple**. (Acts 9:26)*

*In Joppa there was a **disciple** named Tabitha....she was always doing good and helping the poor. (Acts 9:36)*

*Lydda was near Joppa; so when the **disciples** heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!” (Acts 9:38)*

*So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The **disciples** were called Christians first at Antioch. (Acts 11:26)*

*They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of **disciples**.* (Acts 14:21)

*After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the **disciples**.* (Acts 18:23)

*19:1: While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some **disciples**...* (Acts 19:1)

Disciple = learner-pupil-apprentice-adherent-follower

*After John the Baptist was put into prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "**The kingdom of God** has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"* (Mark 1:14-15)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)

Jesus' invitation is a call to spiritual transformation; to change the human heart; to bring new life.

The gospel is not a **presentation** about what you need to do to go to heaven *after* you die. The gospel is a **proclamation** about what God has done to get heaven into you *before* you die!

"There is no problem in human life that apprenticeship to Jesus cannot solve."—Dallas Willard

Human problems will not be solved by human means. Human problems will not be solved by human nature.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." (Mark 1:16-17)

Another man, one of his disciples, said to Jesus, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me. Let the dead bury the dead." (Matthew 8:21-22)

Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life." (John 8:12)

What is Jesus' favorite invitation? **Follow Me.**

"Coltrane developed his voice by surrendering to another. Before he could speak on his own, he first gave himself to repeating again and again the things Monk had said The paradox of

artistry is that the loss of self is the prerequisite for self-expression. And, conversely, the object of mastering another's voice is finding one's own.”—Steven Guthrie

Jesus put it like this: *For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.* (Matthew 16:25)

True self-expression is found only in self-surrender to the One who is the way, the truth and the life. ***Follow Him.***

The primary evidence for being a follower of Jesus is that you actually follow Jesus!

What kind of church are we? We are a Jesus-following, disciple-making church. **We make disciples of Jesus who love God, love people and serve the world.**