



Sermon by Ray Reynolds (4-18-10 - AM)

Introduction: What does that word “Christian” mean? Who was Jesus to his friends, his family, the world around Him? I don’t know if we can ever comprehend the relationship John had with Jesus. They loved each other like brothers. When he recorded the life of Jesus he reflected on terms like “...glory...grace...truth...” He really admired Jesus. He hoped his gospel would encourage others to believe in Jesus and follow Him (John 1:14, 20:30-31). Luke tells us in the book of Acts that people admired Christ’s followers as they grew in harmony and favor with people of the world (Acts 2:47) and that people began calling Christ’s followers “Christians” first at Antioch (Acts 11:26). Since those days we have been called “Christians.” We need to understand the basic principles of Christ-like Christian living in our world today. Let’s answer a few questions to help us out

Introduction:

I. What Did People See In Jesus?

- A. They saw a man of character (Mark 2:23-3:6, 14:1-2).
- B. They saw a man of compassion (John 6:1-2, 11:43-45).
- C. They saw a man of confidence (Matthew 26:36-41, Luke 20:19-23).
- D. They saw a man of conviction (Matthew 27:32-54, Luke 23:34).

II. What Did People See In The Early Christians?

- A. They saw people of character (Acts 2:42, 5:41-42).
- B. They saw people of compassion (Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-35).
- C. They saw people of confidence (Acts 7:1-60, 17:16-31).
- D. They saw people of conviction (Acts 24, 25, 26).

III. What Should People See In Us?

- A. They should see people of character (Galatians 5:13, I Peter 5:5-6).
- B. They should see people of compassion (Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:2).
- C. They should see people of confidence (James 3:2, I Peter 3:15).
- D. They should see people of conviction (Philippians 1:21, Revelation 2:10).

Conclusion: The purpose of the church is to bring others to Christ. We should be helping others become like Jesus. The only way to do that is to shine His light and reflect Him. When Pilate brought Jesus out he said, “Here is the man” (John 19:5). Indeed, he was a man like none other before Him. The demons feared Him (Mark 3:11) and the soldier at the cross recognized Him (Matthew 27:54) for being the SON of GOD! It would be wonderful if people studied our lives and concluded, "That person is child of God!" Christian living is Christ-like living. Do you know Christ? Are you reflecting Christ?

WORD OF THE DAY = “CHRISTIAN”