

What Are We To Be Called As Followers Of Christ?

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Many people claim to be Christians and yet they wear different names and teach different doctrines. If we are true Christians, as the New Testament defines the term, can we add things to this name given by God? (Some examples would be: Catholic Christians, Baptist Christians, Methodist Christian's, etc.).

God's people under the Old Testament were called Israelites (Gen. 35:10). God said one day His people would be called by a new name. (Isaiah 62:2). God's righteousness was shown in sending His Son, in whom we can have faith. (Rom. 3:22).

The Gospel of Jesus Christ went out to Israelites only in the beginning of the New Testament. (Matt 10:6).

This was the chosen Nation of God. In Acts 11:18, Peter and those with him understood that God, from that time onwards, had granted repentance not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles. This fulfilled the prophecies in Isaiah 62:1-2; Isaiah 65:15.

When people understood anyone (Jew or Gentile) could be saved, it was time for God's new name for His people to begin to be used. The new name comes in Antioch, after fulfillment of this prophecy. The record is found in Acts 11:26. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. God wants us all of us to be called simply Christians, because it glorifies Him. (2 Thess. 1:12).

Should we ever wear a man-made name? The answer is No. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians church "*Now I say this that each one of you says, 'I am of Paul and I am Apollos' and 'I am of Cephas' and 'I am of Christ'.*"

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor. 1:12-13).

The different names that people wear creates division among those who claim to be followers of our Lord Jesus. There are more than 200 different denominations in the world today. This is against our Lord's prayer in John 17:20-23.

We can all be Christians and Christians only.

God bless those who strive to be called just Christians.

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