

# **Who is a Christian According to What the Bible Says?**

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I read a magazine called “The Global Religious Landscape”; inside it was a topic titled “Christianity Has The Most Adherents in the World”. Then I began wondering in my soul, are all who profess to be Christian truly Christians, according to the word of God written in the New Testament?

By examining the scriptures, the following is what it means to be a Christian, or to be in Christ.

If I were called on to give a short and simple definition of a Christian, I would say, “a person in Christ”. We can understand how great it is to be a Christian by thinking what it means to be in Christ as opposed to being out of Christ.

## What it means to be out of Christ

Ephesians 2 gives a description of the Ephesians while they were dead in sin (v. 12): At that time they were “*without God*” (v. 12); they did not have a Father in heaven. Having God as a great heavenly Father is conditional (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

They were without Christ (v. 12). They had no higher priest, no God to pray to, and no Christ to pray through; the only way to approach to God is through Christ. (John 14:6). A person without Christ cannot approach heaven’s throne in prayer.

- They were without peace for he... is our peace (v.14)
- They had no hope (v. 12)
- They were excluded from the (spiritual) commonwealth of Israel (v. 12)
- They were dead in their trespasses and sin (v.1)

To be out of Christ means to be in the evil one; means being in his dominion, “In the Christ” and “in the evil” one are expressions which describe the two possible spiritual relationships. There is no middle ground. A person is either in Christ or in the evil one. We are here speaking of accountable people. People who can choose between good and evil, free moral being persons.

## What it Means to be in Christ

Those who are in Christ have God because they have been reconciled to him in the body of Christ (the church of the Lord) (Ephesians 2:16). Christians have Christ as their High Priest.

Prayer is a great spiritual blessings in Christ including redemption (Eph. 1:7), becoming new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17), reconciliation (Eph. 2:16), and eternal life (1 John 5:11).

## **How One Enters into Christ**

When a person is taught what it means to be out of Christ, he/she should ask immediately, “What must I do to get into Christ?”. The answer to that question is found in two passages of scripture-

- *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death?”* (Romans 6:3).
- *“For all of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”* (Galatians 3:27).

These passengers state that we are baptized *“into Christ”*.

Would you like to be a Christian and enjoy all the blessings that are to be found only in Christ? After reading this article, take an important step and make a decision to be *“in Christ”* and be a faithful Christian.

God Bless You.

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