

Who Are We?

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Who are we?... We are Children of God! By knowing who we are we will have a better understanding of who God wants us to be. It will help us to.... We read in Ephesians 5:1-10....

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Once we become Christians everything about us changes. The way we think, act and live our lives is constantly being conformed into the image of God. We no longer desire the ways of the world but desire to be more like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! This change does not happen overnight but takes years of studying, learning and living the way God wants us to live. What a great honor it is to be called a Christian. God's people were first called Christians in Antioch...

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Christian identifies us as a follower of Christ.
The Bible describes Christians in many different ways. Let's take a look at some of them.
First, let's notice that as Christians we are...

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...Disciples.

I Peter 2:21 "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

John 13:15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

As Christians we are....

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...Branches.

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Jesus is the vine and as Christians we are branches. We get our nourishment, our life from the vine, for without Him we would be nothing. And as branches we are to bear much fruit....

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Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

What happens to a branch that does not bear fruit?

What is standing between you and bearing fruit?

Friends? Get new ones.

Job? Get another one.

Money? Give to the poor.

Pride? Humble yourself.

Whatever is keeping you from bearing fruit for the Lord, get rid of it!

As Christian's we are...

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...Soldiers. We read in Ephesians 6:10-17...

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As soldiers we are under the Command of God...

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...battling against Satan.

But God has equipped us for battle....

Feet shod with Gospel of Peace – Jesus said Go! We are on a rescue mission behind enemy lines.

Shield of Faith – Our faith has overcome the world, **I John 5:4**

Helmet of Salvation – **I Thess. 5:8**, is hope of Salvation. We are protected by the shed blood of Jesus.

Sword of the Spirit – Word of God, the only offensive weapon we have.

Same as used by Jesus in the wilderness (**Matt. 4**) Are You well versed in it's use?

Are you serving in the Lord's army?

As Christians we are....

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...Athletes. We read in I Cor. 9:24-27...

As Christians we are running to win...

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...the prize – Heaven! To win we must...

Be in the race – We can not win if we are standing on the sidelines, sadly that is what too many people do

Compete according to the rules – We can not make up our own rules, There are not many paths to the victory line, only one. (**Matt. 7:14**) We will be judged by the Word of God, (**John 12:48**)

Remain Focused – We must keep our eyes on Jesus, do not turn to the left or the right

Have endurance – Reaching heaven is not a sprint but a marathon. We will have struggles, troubles, pain, discouragements but we must endure to the end to receive the crown of life. (**Rev. 2:10**)

As Christians we are...

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...Workers. In I Cor. 3:5-8 we read...

Then in Luke 10:2 it says....

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We are workers for the Lord. And as workers we are to....

Tend the field...

Sow the seed...

Have patience...

Allow God to give the increase...

Are you a worker for the Lord?

Finally, as Christians we are....

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...Temples. II Cor. 6:16 says....

In Old Testament God lived in a temple made with hands. Today he lives in us, Christians. Notice these passages...

I Cor. 6:19 “do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

Eph. 3:17 “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith”

Rom. 8:11 “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

As Christians we belong to God and must live our lives for Him...

Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

As temples of God the world sees Christ through us.

Are you a temple of the Lord?

So again, we ask the question...

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...Who Are We?

We are Christians Who Are....

Disciples of Christ -	Imitating Christ
Branches of the True Vine -	Bearing much fruit
Soldiers of the Cross -	Fighting with the Lord
Athletes running for God -	Keeping our eyes on our goal, heaven
Workers for the Lord -	Doing His will & seeking the lost
Temples of the Living God -	Allowing world to see Christ through me

This morning, Are You A Christian?....