**A REAL CHRISTIAN**

**Acts 11:21-26**

[**21**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-11-21/) **And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.**

[**22**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-11-22/) **Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.**

[**23**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-11-23/) **Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.**

[**24**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-11-24/) **For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.**

[**25**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-11-25/) **Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:**

[**26**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-11-26/) **And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**

**INTRO:**

**1. Christianity is not in a Church.**

 **a. It’s not a Gaining of church membership.**

 **b. It’s not a Going to church meetings.**

 **c. It’s not a Giving to church missions.**

**2. Christianity is not in a Conquest**

 **a. It does not come by Education**

 **b. It does not come by Escalation**

 **c. It does not come by Employment**

**3. Christianity is not in a Compromise**

 **(Meaning – Having enough good to balance the bad. There are a lot of people who believe this.)**

**4. Christianity is not in a Clothing**

 **(Meaning- Something you can put on and take off. Some think the days they have acted good means they were Christians that day.)**

**5. Christianity is not in a Conduct**

**(It’s not acting like Christ, but Christianity is Christ!)**

**a. It’s not a plan, but a person.**

**b. It’s not a reform, but a reborn.**

**c. It’s not a new leaf, but a new life.**

**d. It’s not a turning around in the road, but a totally new road.**

**\*\*I’ve told you everything it is not. Now let me tell you everything it is.**

**\*\*If you’re going to be a real Christian, you should know what real Christianity is.**

**I. IT IS A RECEIVING OF CHRIST IN SALVATION**

 **A. It includes a Great Gift**

**1. The Heir Gift**

**John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**

**2. The Heavenly Gift**

 **Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

 **B. It includes a Great Grace**

**Ephesians 2:8-9 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.
1. The Gift of Grace is why we have Jesus!**

 **2. The Gift of Grace is why we have Joy!**

 **C. It includes a Great God**

**Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

**\*\*Receiving Jesus Christ is the greatest gift anyone could ever receive, and that is what will make you a Real Christian!!**

**\*\*Don’t you want to be a Real Christian? Then Receive Christ!**

**II. IT IS A REPRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN SOCIETY**

 **A. Representing his Grace**

**Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
 1. Let Grace be at the center of your Work.**

 **2. Let Grace be at the center of your Walk.**

 **3. Let Grace be at the center of your Worship.**

 **B. Representing his Greatness**

**Psalms 145:3-6 3Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised ; and his greatness is unsearchable. 4One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. 5I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.** **6And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts : and I will declare** **thy greatness.
\*\*Tell the world about His great Book, His great Blood, His great Blessings!!**

 **C. Representing his Glory**

[**I Corinthians 10:31**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-10-31/) **Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
\*\*Let His glory show, shine, and shimmer in your life.**

**\*\*A Real Christian represents God’s grace, greatness, and glory!**

**\*\*Don’t you want to be a Real Christian? Then Represent Christ.**

**III. IT IS A RESPONDING TO CHRIST IN SERVICE**

 **A. Be Fishers**

**Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
 1. Witness to Sinners**

 **2. Win the Sinners**

 **B. Bear Fruit**

**Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**

**\*\*Inspect your fruit. Is your fruit Christian fruit or Carnal fruit?**

**John 15:1 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the**

 **husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.**

 **7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
\*\*All of us could be doing more to bear fruit for the Lord.**

 **C. Be Faithful**

**Matthew 21:28-30 28But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. 30And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.**

**\*\*Real Christians are faithful to Christ, the Church, and the Cause!**

**\*\*Don’t you want to be a Real Christian?**

**CLOSE**

**1. I know of a deacon who often says after he testifies, “I want to be a Christian.” And based on the fruit that he bears, he is a real Christian.**

**2. There are many unbelievers who are full of religion who have never Received Christ, Represented Christ, nor Responded to Christ who call themselves “Christians.”**

**3. The world groups so-called Christians in with the Real Christians.**

**4. However, the Lord knows His own. The Lord knows the wheat from the tares, and he will separate the artificial Christians from the authentic Christians!**

**5. Based on this definition given today, are you a Real Christian?**