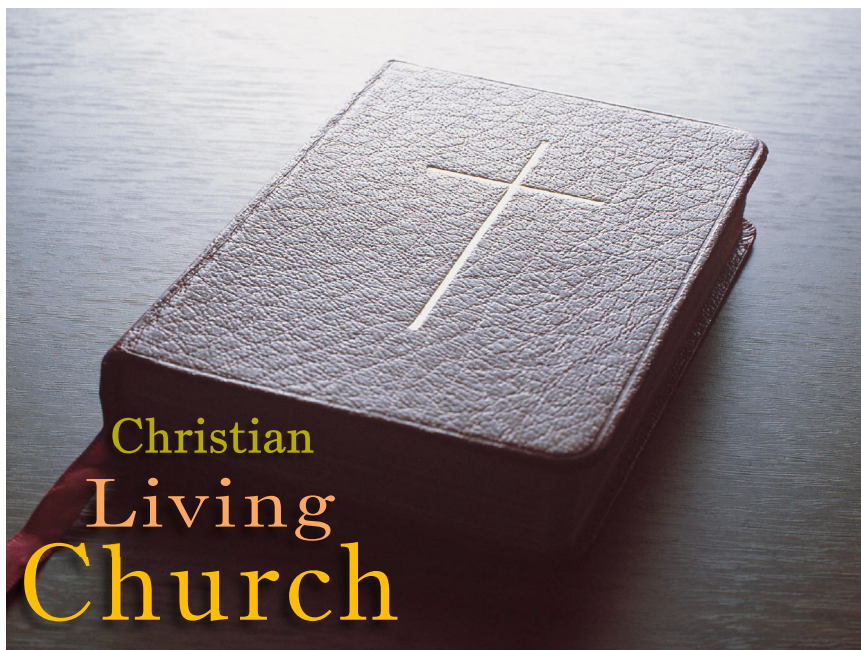


# The Definition of a Christian

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”



Christian  
Living  
Church

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This series of lessons has been designed for private study or classroom presentation. The purpose of this foreword is to explain certain conventions utilized throughout the program. The overall concept is to begin with the basic concepts necessary for the new convert to understand and progress toward more complex doctrine. The lessons are numbered in order to maintain the proper sequence of study.

When Scripture references are encountered in the text, various actions are recommended. When in parenthetical bold (**Genesis 1:1**) the verse is to be looked up and read right away. Frequently, the next textual statement will comment on that verse. Reading verse and text in proper order will enhance one's understanding of the verse. Direct quotes from Scripture will be "***bold italicized and contained in quotation marks***" and, unless otherwise noted, will be from the King James Bible. When the reference is in parenthetical non-bold (Genesis 1:1) it is to provide the Scriptural basis for the statement if confirmation is desired. References in blue [Genesis 1:1](#) will be listed in the lesson section entitled **FURTHER STUDY**.

**FURTHER STUDY** is the "homework" section. Its purpose is to encourage Bible study at home. The referenced verses have a short summation to assist the student desiring more knowledge about a subject to find what they are looking for.

The **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** section is primarily for classroom use. Open discussion with the exchange of ideas produces growth for all involved. Most of the time the answer is contained in the referenced Scripture but sometimes the question is offered for open discussion. Even in private Bible study, analysis of the question and the search for its answer can be rewarding.

This work is offered to anyone with a desire to better understand God's Word. It is our hope and prayer that the person studying these lessons will come away with a better understanding of God's will and a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With Loving Concern for all those seeking God's Message  
The Church of God Rocky Mount  
Rocky Mount, Virginia

# Key Verse: Romans 8:9



“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

## Discussion Question: What does this Key Verse mean to you?

*A true Christian is one in whom the Holy Spirit dwells.* This is the definition of a Christian as stated in the Statement of Beliefs. After becoming aware of their sins and repenting of them, becoming convicted of their lost state and confessing their sins, being baptized and receiving God's Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, the individual is a Christian. Read the Key Verse again. Without God's Holy Spirit you *do not belong to Christ!* His Holy Spirit is essential to the Christian (**Romans 8:14**). Now begins the process of conversion,

growth, and recognition of the importance of obedience (**1 John 5:3**).

Simple belief is not enough. The real Christian must be dedicated to Christ and surrender his will to that of Jesus. Many people believe that there is a God, but they have put Him on a shelf and take Him down only when they are in trouble and need something spiritual to lean on. The rest of the time they do things their way. Buddhists and Hindus have their Nirvana, the attainment of enlightenment and freeing of the spiritual self from attachment to worldly things, but they do not accept Christ and without this they cannot have God's Holy Spirit. This leaves them unfit for God's Kingdom. People claiming to be Christians and

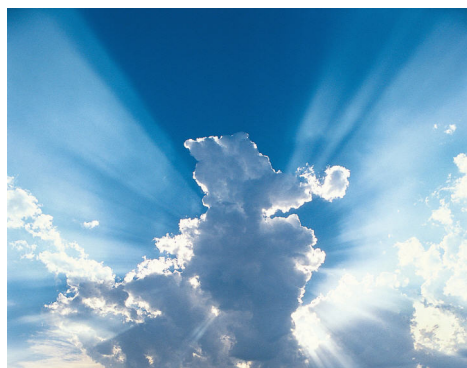
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calling Jesus “Lord” but not allowing Him to really be the Lord of their lives are no better off than these Buddhists and Hindus (**Luke 6:46**). Jesus had many criticisms of the Pharisees, but this was the only one of His followers because it revealed a lack of faith. Belief without commitment won’t get you there (**Matthew 7:21**). Satan and his demons fit this category (**James 2:19**). They don’t just believe, *they know!* John has a name for those who give lip service to the Lordship of Christ but have no commitment to live under it (**1 John 2:4**).

Christianity is not a religion, it is not a denomination, it is a *way of life*. You don’t practice being a Christian; you live and walk a Christian life (**1 John 2:6**). In every daily decision he makes, great or small, the real Christian attempts to emulate the action he believes that Christ would take (**1 Peter 2:21-22**). After becoming a

Christian, anything in your life that may be offensive to your Lord should be removed from it, just as the early church did (**Acts 19:19**) regardless of the cost. Giving up some cherished pagan habits may hurt sometimes. Many in God’s Church dearly love the taste of bacon, but when they were converted and found out He calls it unclean, they stopped eating it. Although the analogy in no way approaches the suffering of our Savior, going through this transition from living in sin to living under the Lordship of Christ could be considered our act of being “crucified” (**Galatians 2:20**). As we grow in the faith and learn more about what is ex-



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pected of the Christian, we divest our life of all of the unpleasant attributes that have infested it prior to conversion (**Galatians 5:19-21**). Most people here are not likely to have indulged in the full list of the “works of the flesh,” but there are many testimonies to the fact that many sinners, guilty of the foulest acts, have completely changed and embarked on a life of happiness and peace after becoming a Christian, surrendering their will to Christ and banishing these things from their life. The Spirit-filled life enjoys the benefits promised (**Galatians 5:22-25**). When the flesh is crucified as mentioned earlier, that is, put to death and buried in baptism, the creature rising from this watery grave is a new person, flesh and blood living with a spiritual attitude (in the Spirit) and behaving in a spiritual manner (walking in the Spirit).

When those moments arise where the Christian is tempted to compromise and try to “duck the bullet” because the right thing to do is the difficult thing to do, remember that not even the Son of God was immune to this, but He overcame it (**Luke 22:39-42**). Consider for a moment what the plight of Christians today would be if Jesus had not taken the cup the Father handed Him and then be mindful of the fact that somewhere out there some lost soul may be the beneficiary of an act of yours because you decided to take the cup and become a REAL Christian.



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## Discussion Questions:

1. What can identify Christians as such to the world at large?  
**John 13:34-35**

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2. The Christian must do this daily. Just what did Jesus mean?  
**Luke 9:23**

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3. What is the first duty of the Christian? **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

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## FURTHER STUDY:

**Proverbs 15:18** Be slow to anger.

**Proverbs 16:32** Exercise self control.

**Proverbs 25:28** He that does not rule his own spirit is like a desolate city.

**Matthew 18:3** You must be converted and have the faith of a little child.

**Romans 12:21** Don't give in to evil, but overcome evil with good.

**1 John 5:4-5** Those converted with the Spirit of God and believing Jesus is the Son of God overcome the world through faith.

**Revelation 2:11** Those who overcome the world shall not suffer the second death.

**Revelation 21:7** Those who prevail over the world shall be God's child and will inherit all things.

Notes:

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