
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Was Jesus a Christian?**

The short answer to this is: ***No, Jesus was not a Christian.*** A Christian is a disciple of Christ.

Acts 11:26

²⁶ And when [Barnabas] had found [Saul], he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And **the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**

Notice that disciples were called Christians—not the Lord Himself.

The word "*called*" is translated from the Greek word χρηματίζω which is used only nine times in the New Testament (Matthew 2:12, 22; Luke 2:26; Acts 10:22; 11:26; Romans 7:3; Hebrews 8:5; 11:7; 12:25). This word means "*divinely called.*" In other words, God is the one calling disciples "*Christians.*" Some historians claim that the name "*Christian*" was a derogatory term used as a slander to followers of Christ. This is simply not true. God Himself called the Lord's disciples "*Christians.*" It is an honorable name to wear.

1 Peter 4:16

¹⁶ ... if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

The divinely given name of Christian is a fulfilment of a prophecy given by Isaiah the prophet:

Isaiah 62:1-2

¹ For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace,
And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
And her salvation as a lamp that burns.

² The Gentiles shall see your righteousness,
And all kings your glory.

**You shall be called by a new name,
Which the mouth of the LORD will name.**

Notice several points in this prophecy.

First: The Lord's church is being called "*Zion*" and "*Jerusalem*." The Lord's church is the New Jerusalem that is totally spiritual—not the old Jerusalem which was a physical city. The apostle John speaks of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:2 when he saw the Lord's church like the "*New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*."

Second: The mouth of the Lord Himself would give a new name to the citizens of the New Jerusalem. In other words, the members of the Lord's church would have a new name identifying them to the world. As we have already seen in Acts 11:26, this new divinely-given name, is "*Christian*." The Lord Himself gave this name to His people—the members of His church.

Third: Notice in Isaiah's prophecy that the new name would not be given until the "*Gentiles see God's righteousness.*" In other words, Gentiles must first be converted and allowed into the church and after this occurs, then the Lord will give the new name to His people.

So, what do we see in Acts 11:26. We see that the divinely-given name of "*Christian*" was given immediately after the conversion of Cornelius—the first Gentile convert into the Lord's church. If you will take the time to read the entire chapters of Acts 10-11, you will be reading about the conversion of the gentiles into the Lord's church.

Back To The Question

Now, back to the question: *Was Jesus a Christian?* The answer is "no" simply because Jesus is not a disciple.

- Jesus is the Master (Luke 5:5).
- Jesus is the Teacher (Matthew 8:19).

The Teacher is not the follower—He is the Leader. Jesus does not follow men—men follow Him. He leads and His disciples follow.

Becoming A Disciple

How does one become a disciple?

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

According to scripture, people become disciples of Jesus by being baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and then they continue learning and following all the commands which Jesus gave to the apostles.

If you have never been baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38), and into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20), then you are not yet a disciple. We encourage you to consider doing these things so that you too will be a Christian and become honored to wear the new name given by the Lord Himself to His disciples.

Announcements

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

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