



Can People Today Be Just “Christians”?

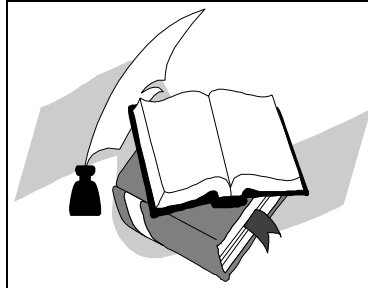
We read sad reports in the news of churches that have lost touch with their purpose: *saving souls*. Their leadership shows preference to a select few of their more prominent members, offering a watered-down version of scripture that only pays lip service to following God’s inspired word. (Read II Timothy 3:16-17 for what the Bible has to say about itself.)

As a result, people are turned off by the hypocrisy and indifference of their church leadership, and in disgust, some have decided that “Christianity is no longer relevant.” This is unfortunate, because anyone can pick up a Bible and read the simple words of Jesus Christ without the need of a preacher to “explain.” The Bible wasn’t written for preachers or priests— it was written for everyday people like you and me.

If you’re troubled by what you see and have felt a yearning to return to the simple and uncomplicated religion taught by Jesus Christ, let us suggest that such a possibility exists.

Let us begin with the essential facts: Jesus Christ is the Son of God. His coming (Genesis 49:10), His mission (Isaiah 53, Zechariah 6:13) and His new message (Jeremiah 31:31-33) were all foretold in the Old Testament *hundreds* of years before He was born. Jesus Christ wasn’t simply “a good man” but Himself said in Luke 19:10 that He came “*to seek and to save that which was lost*.”

We invite you to study your Bible and decide for yourself whether Christianity can exist today in a pure form. Don’t take our word for anything. Read your Bible and decide for yourself. The Bible was written so that *anyone* could read it and understand it.



responsibilities by sharing their prosperity, and we find no other examples or commands of collections other than this (I Corinthians 16:1-2). No hierarchy could tell them how much money to give. They had no “church organizations” clamoring for their money and telling them how much to “tithe,” but they each “*purposed in their own hearts*” (II Corinthians 9:6-7).

In their assemblies they would all sing (Ephesians 5:19) and all would pray while various men of the assembly would lead them (I Corinthians 14:15-16). No one person performed the worship, but each worshipped his or her God as commanded by Jesus Christ. It was simple but powerful, because each person had a responsibility to worship in spirit and in truth. They were all involved, for each saved person was a priest (Revelation 1:5-6).

Seeking to Please God, Not to Please Men

These men and women lived godly lives. They taught others about Jesus Christ. They sent out preachers to other lands. They cared for their poor. With their simplicity of faith, and with their understanding that Jesus Christ was the head of the church, there was no need of centralization. Without any type of organized machinery, the gospel was preached throughout civilization in a short time (Colossians 1:23) and these early disciples were known simply as “Christians” (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; I Peter 4:16). They wore no other denominational name.

Their religion was neither materialistic, flamboyant nor recreational. They were not interested in impressing men with ceremony, but were interested in pleasing God with the only thing that has ever pleased God: *contrite obedience to His commands* (I Samuel 15:22). These New Testament Christians preached the gospel to a troubled world, for they knew that it was God’s power to save others, and not their own (Romans 1:16). *Any other appeal they would not make*.

“If only this could be the case today,” many say. *It is*. Men and women throughout the world have despaired of “organized religion,” taking a stand to know no other master besides Jesus Christ, reading for themselves the commandments of God. So can you!

We worship and serve God in the same way the early disciples did, and we would like for you to serve God in the same manner: in simplicity, following His commandments. We’re not a part of any denomination. We are all just “Christians.”

How about you? Would you like to be just a “Christian” and to freely serve God, following Christ without being bound by denominational laws and obligations? If such freedom appeals to you, please come meet with us, or call us.

Our meeting place is 615 Canton Rd, Cumming, GA 30040. From GA 400, take exit 15 and go west. Go through Cumming, and just past Hwy 306 you’ll see us on the right. We meet for Sunday Bible Study at 9 AM, worship at 10 AM & 5 PM. Wednesday Bible Study is at 7:30 PM.

For a free Bible correspondence course or home study, telephone us at (770) 889-7186 or visit our web site, <http://www.justchristians.net>.

How Can We Know What God Wants Us To Do?

The New Testament reveals the heart and mind of Christ (Hebrews 9:15-17). By studying the New Testament, we learn that no denominations existed— history shows that these came later. We read of people in their faith obeying the conditions of God’s grace: they believed, turned to God, repented of their sins and were baptized in order to be forgiven of their sins. Being thus saved by God, they were added to the Lord’s people, or “church” (Acts 2:36-47).

As the gospel spread, we see them assembling in congregations in various locations, each local group under the oversight of its own elders (Acts 14:23) who did not answer to anyone other than Jesus. These elders could not make laws or be masters, but were only given the responsibility of caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (Acts 20:17, 28; I Peter 5:1-3). These early Christians only knew of one headquarters: heaven, where their master, Jesus Christ, ruled over each of them (Ephesians 1:23).

New Testament Worship

Their worship was something that they all participated in, not something they watched. On the first day of the week they would eat the Lord’s Supper and hear preaching (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-29). They would share their mutual