

Thursday, February 22, 2018 - Who is a Christian?

Acts 11:25-26 - And he went forth to Tarsus to seek for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that even for a whole year they were gathered together with the church, and taught much people, and that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

There was something special about the disciples at Antioch. The Holy Spirit informs us they "were called Christians first..." at this place. We learn that it wasn't just the disciples at Antioch who were special. Paul informs us in 2 Cor. 5:11-21:

11 Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest unto God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. 12 We are not again commending ourselves unto you, but speak as giving you occasion of glorying on our behalf, that ye may have wherewith to answer them that glory in appearance, and not in heart. 13 For whether we [a]are beside ourselves, it is unto God; or whether we are of sober mind, it is unto you. 14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and he died for all, that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again. 16 Wherefore we henceforth know no man after the flesh: even though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now we know him so no more. 17 Wherefore if any man is in Christ, [b]he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new. 18 But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having [c]committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God. 21 Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

We are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Then, and only then, can we be called Christians. How does that reconciliation occur?

Wayne Jackson has written a masterful piece on "Who is a Christian" that should should give all of us pause as we contemplate our relationship with God.

<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/775-who-is-a-christian?fbclid=IwAR3TIsS3OQk6uHleHb3LxBTsSvdjRH5Qb1ifuMrwdIWFA8w4UWDB5iO-t2o>