

The Meaning of Being Christian

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1 John 5:19-20 *We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil - and we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

1. We hold that God has revealed himself in Jesus of Nazareth - The Messiah waited by Israel.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 4:6 *For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*
 - b. John 1:18; Romans 3:21-22; John 6:45-46, John 14:8-10; Galatians 3:23-24;
 - c. This is a work of the Spirit: I Corinthians 2:9-11; Ephesians 3:4-12
2. The new life we profess is in Christ Jesus
 - a. 2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,)by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world through lust, and become partakers of the divine nature.*
 - b. II Corinthians 5:17-6:2; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 6:22-23
 - c. I Peter 1:3-5, 23-25; Romans 7:24-8:4
3. The Goal: "The Knowledge of God" **Ephesians 1:9-14; I John 5:13-15; Acts 2:22-24**
 - a. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 *For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.*
 - b. Proverbs 2:1-5; Hosea 4:1-3; 6:6; I Corinthians 15:33-34
 - c. Colossians 1:9-10; I John 2:13; Philippians 3:8-11
4. The goal of true ministry is to hear and to bear witness to the Word of God/from God. God has gloriously acted toward his created people of earth - he spoke in and as Jesus of Nazareth - the Christ. Revelation, reconciliation, restoration, sanctification, and life and in God's act in Jesus - now extended through his Spirit. Knowledge of God is in him - to use other man-made means is blasphemy.