**Who is a Christian?**

The term “Christian” is found three times in the New Testament. The word literally means, “Christ-like”. It was initially used in connection with the ministry of Barnabas and Saul in Antioch of Syria.

**“The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”, Acts 11.26.**

Later, when pressed with evidence for the validity of the Christian faith, Herod Agrippa said,

**“Almost you persuade me to be a Christian”, Acts 26.28.**

The third instance of the word is found in **1 Peter 4.16,**

**“If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name”.**

It seems many today identify themselves as “Christian” without knowing or understanding the reasoning or basis behind the term.

How does one become a Christian? The answer to this question helps us properly use the term Christian as well as eliminates speculation or non-scriptural reasons for using the term. There is clear and compelling evidence from Scripture which helps us answer this question.

Matthew 28.19-20 teaches us, **“Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”.**

These disciples later were called Christians in Acts 11.26 because they identified with the Christ and were immersed into Christ.

Paul made it clear in 1 Corinthians 1.13 that wearing the name of Christ, or being a Christian, was dependent upon accepting the fact that the Lord was crucified on one’s behalf, and being immersed in His name.

The word “Christian” as it appears in the Greek New Testament, is “christianos”. It basically means “belonging to”. One belongs to Christ when they are baptized into His name, Acts 2.38, and becomes a member of His body, the church, Acts 2.47.

Therefore, the name Christian means you completely identify with Him and you follow Him and His teachings and you are His disciple.