

Elder Bobby Willis



Being A Christian: Can We?

Is it okay to call someone a Christian? Is it a title which should or should not be used? Should we call ourselves Christians? These are questions I have heard from my youth up. In the book of Acts, chapter 11, verse 26, we find this statement - **“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”** Disciples are followers of Christ. Those who believed and followed the teachings of Christ were called Christians as they worshiped and learned more of the Gospel while they were at Antioch. So, to be a Christian, one must follow the teachings of Christ closely, with a godly zeal (hopefully, what we all want to do).

There are those who want to put forth a false humbleness and say that no one should call anyone else a Christian. The probable reason for this is because there are always those who would abuse it and would call themselves a Christian for pride’s sake. However, the Lord said He hated a proud look. It is one of seven things which the Lord doth hate that are listed in Proverbs 6:16-19. Notice what Solomon said in Proverbs 27:2, **“Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”** Anyone who would go around calling themselves a Christian would be assuming praise which constitutes pride.

So, is it wrong to call another a “Christian”? No! If they are diligently serving the Lord and reflecting the attributes of those who were at Antioch, seeking to learn more about their Lord, then it is an acceptable term. I have used the term sparingly over the years, usually at a funeral service to indicate the life of those who have walked in a path of service to God. I have been called a Christian before but felt uncomfortable because I know my own shortcomings.

Remember, there was a time when King Agrippa said to Paul, **“Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian”** (Acts 26:28). What Agrippa meant was that he was unwilling to let go of what he had in order to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, even though he believed in Christ. To follow Christ is not only believing that there is one God, as **“the devils also believe, and tremble”** (James 2:19). So believing is not enough to bear the name of a Christian, it also means to **“put ye on**

the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14). Galatians 3:27 explains it further by saying, **“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”**. Hopefully, you can now see why the term “Christian” should be used sparingly as none of us are truly worthy. Our worthiness is only in the Lord Jesus Christ. May we go forth in life so that others would look upon the light of our lives and feel we had lived a life worthy of such a name as Christian. ***Think About It!***