

Two Characteristics of True Christians

Revelation 12:17



**A true Christian is any person
who believes in Jesus Christ
and has been saved by the
power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Saved is a Bible word NOT a
Baptist or Evangelical idea.**



Titus 3:5

- **he saved us,** not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,**



Christ was Crucified to Save You

Acts 16:31	And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and <u>you will be saved</u> , you and your household.”
Rom 10:9	because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, <u>you will be saved</u> .
1 Cor 1:18	For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us <u>who are being saved</u> it is the power of God.
1 Cor 15:2	and by which <u>you are being saved</u> , if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
Eph 2:5	even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace <u>you have been saved</u> —
Eph 2:8	For by grace <u>you have been saved</u> through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

**What have
true Christians
been Saved
from?**



All true Christians are Saved from:

John 3:36 Rom 5:9	The Wrath of God Almighty
Col 2:14	The penalty of sin—it was nailed to the cross
Rom 6:23 Rev 20:6	Death—that is the Second Death
Rev 20:14	Hell and the eternal Lake of Fire
1 Cor 15:56 Rom 7:4	The power of sin through the law which we are no longer bound to
Rom 6:28	Bondage to sin

Revelation 12:17



- **Then the dragon**

**The dragon is
the devil.**

The Great Dragon; that Ancient Serpent

Gen 3:1	Serpent (12x)
Job 1:3	Satan (our adversary/accuser) (53x)
Mt 4:1,3	The devil (slanderer) (34x, NT); the tempter (2x)
Mt 12:24	Beelzebul, the prince of the demons
Mt 13:19	The evil (or wicked) one (10x)
Jn 8:44	A murderer...a liar and the father of lies
Jn 12:31	The ruler of this world (3x)
2 Cor 4:4	The god of this world
2 Cor 6:15	Belial (wicked or worthless)
Eph 2:2	Prince of the power of the air
1 Pet 5:8	Your adversary...like a roaring lion
Rev 12:9	The deceiver of the whole world
Rev 12:10	The accuser of our brothers

Revelation 12:17



- **Then the dragon became furious with the woman**

Since the devil was unable to defeat Christ he, our adversary, goes after the church or the bride of Christ.

2 John 1

- The elder [John] to the elect lady [a woman] and her children [offspring],



In 2 John 1, John, the author of Revelation calls the church of Jesus Christ that he is writing to “the elect lady” that is a woman and then gives the “elect lady” children.

Isn't that what is happening in Revelation 12:16-17?

The woman gives birth to Jesus and the woman represents the church (v. 16) and the offspring of the woman are the children (individual members of the body of Christ) of the church (v. 17).



Revelation 12:17



- Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,

Who is her offspring?

Who is the offspring of the woman?

- Mary, a Jew, gives birth to Jesus, a Jew.
- **The dragon is unsuccessful in defeating Jesus.**
- Jesus calls 12 disciples, all Jews, and many more to follow Him.
- **He promises to build his church and promises that the gates of hell will not prevail against it.**

What does the Bible call those who have been saved, those who are part of the true church?

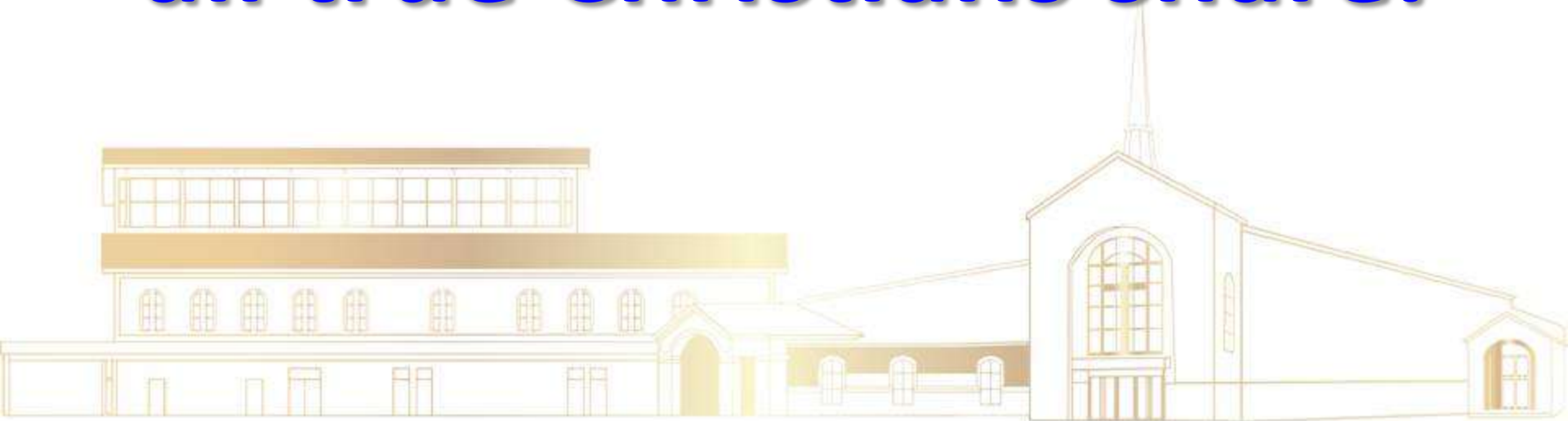


The Offspring of Jesus are Followers of Jesus

Mt 5:45	so that you may be sons of your Father
Mt 13:38	and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom.
Lk 6:35	and you will be sons of the Most High,
Rom 8:14	For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
2 Cor 6:18	and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”
Gal 3:26	for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.
Gal 4:5-6	so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons,
Eph 1:5	he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ,
Heb 2:10	in bringing many sons to glory
Heb 12:8	then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

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BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**Now I want you to see
the two characteristics
all true Christians share.**



Two Characteristics All True Christians Share

Revelation 12:17

**those who keep
the commandments of
God**

**and hold to the
testimony of Jesus.**

Revelation 14:12

**those who keep
the commandments of
God**

and their faith in Jesus.



Revelation 12:17



- Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God

What are the Commandments of God?



In the OT

The

Ten Commandments

Exodus 20



3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol.

7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother...

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet.



John 14:15

- “If you love me,
you will keep my
commandments.



Joshua 22:5

- Only be very careful to **observe the commandment and the law** that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to **love the LORD your God**, and to **walk in all his ways** and to **keep his commandments** and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”



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**Jesus took the 10 and
broke them down to
2 Commandments**



Mark 12:30

- And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'



Mark 12:31

- The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”



Romans 13:9

- For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



1 John 3:22-24

- and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.



**With all this emphasis
on keeping the
commandments why
do we need Jesus?**



**With all this emphasis on
keeping the commandments
why do we need Jesus?**

**Because we fail and this
failure is called sin and sin
separates us from our
holy God.**



Revelation 12:17



- Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Hold to

Hold to is to continue to have a particular belief or conviction about someone or something.

In this case, the people Satan is making war against are those who hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.

What is the testimony of Jesus Christ?



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What is the testimony of Jesus Christ?

Do you hold to it?



The Testimony of Jesus

Is a Big Deal in Revelation



The Testimony of Jesus

Rev 1:2	bore witness to the word of God and to the <u>testimony</u> of Jesus Christ,
Rev 1:9	was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the <u>testimony of Jesus</u> .
Rev 12:17	and hold to the <u>testimony of Jesus</u> .
Rev 19:10	I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the <u>testimony of Jesus</u> .
Rev 20:4	the souls of those who had been beheaded for the <u>testimony of Jesus</u> .

**The testimony of Jesus is
what the witnesses believed
to be true about Jesus.**

**John bore witness about
what he saw; Peter was the
same way.**



2 Peter 1:16

- For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.



Turn back to
Luke 1:1-4



Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² **just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ **that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.**



1 John 5:10–11

- Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed **in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.** ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.



The Testimony of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God, the

1. Only Son of God	6. Lamb of God
2. Word of God	7. Savior of the World
3. Son of Man	8. One Mediator
4. Holy One of God	9. Last Adam
5. Master and Lord	10. Blessed Hope

Our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Jesus—He will save his people from their sins

Christ of God—God's Anointed One—that is chosen by divine election

Nazareth—Jesus' hometown, a city N of Jerusalem and W of the Sea of Galilee



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Our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Prophet—God's ultimate, perfect and final spokesman; Jesus spoke for God

Priest—Our Great High Priest—offered His own life as the sacrifice that reconciled sinners to God

King—the King of kings—the Sovereign Ruler of the Cosmos for whom God has given all authority and an eternal kingdom.



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Our Prophet, Priest, and King.

The Testimony of Jesus

1. Jesus, the one and only eternal Son of God, is the Second Person of the Trinity having neither beginning nor end. He and God, the Father, the First person of the Trinity, are One.

***Matt 3:17, John 1:3, 3:16, 8:58**



John 3:16

- For this is the way God loved the world: **He gave his one and only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.



Matthew 3:17

- and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



John 8:58

- Jesus said to them,
“Truly, truly, I say to you,
before Abraham was, I
am.”



The Testimony of Jesus

2. Jesus, the Word, was in the beginning with God and was entirely God. The Word was the perfect revelation of the nature and glory of the God of Israel. He created all things, and He holds everything together and upholds the universe.

***Matt 1, Mark 14:21, John 1:1-14, Acts 3:13**



John 1:1, 3, & 14

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



The Testimony of Jesus

3. Jesus, the Son of Man, God's servant left the glories of heaven, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, to permanently unite deity and humanity as Immanuel that is God with us. Through the mystery of the incarnation, Jesus became truly man while remaining truly God.

***Matt 1, Mark 14:21, John 1:1-14, Acts 3:13, Phil 4:7**



Matthew 1:20

- But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, **for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**”



Matthew 1:23

- “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and **they shall call his name Immanuel**” (which means, God with us).



The Testimony of Jesus

4. Jesus, the Holy One of God, the Son of David was tempted to sin in every way humans are yet He knew no sin. Jesus perfectly kept the law of God in every regard making it possible for God to credit Christ's righteousness to all who put their faith in Him.

*** Matt 1:1, John 6:69, Rom 4:11, 2 Cor. 5:21**



John 6:68-69

- “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,
- and we have believed, and have come to know, **that you are the Holy One of God.**”



Jesus' Genealogy

Son of Joseph

Son of Zerubbabel

Son of Nathan (David's son)

Son of David

Son of Boaz (Ruth)

Son of Jacob

Son of Isaac

Son of Abraham

Son of Shem

Son of Noah

Son of Adam



2 Corinthians 5:21

- For our sake he [God] made him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him [Jesus] we [believers] might become the righteousness of God.



The Testimony of Jesus

5. Jesus of Nazareth, our Master, and Lord, authenticated His divine nature through countless miracles and with the authority with which the Prophet spoke.

***Mark 1:22, 2:7, 5, Luke 5:5, 7:22, John 6:14, Jude 4**



Luke 7:22

- And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: **the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up,** the poor have good news preached to them.



The Miracles of Jesus

John 2	Turned water into Wine
John 4	Cured the nobleman's son
Mark 1	Cast out an unclean spirit
Matt 8	Healed the centurion's son miles away from the child
Luke 7	Raised the widow's son from the dead
Matt 8	Stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee
Matt 8	Cured two men possessed of demons
Matt 9	Raised the ruler's daughter from the dead
John 5	Healed an invalid man at the pool called Bethesda
Matt 14	Fed at least 5000 people Fed 4000 (Mark 8)
Luke 17	Cleansed ten lepers one leper earlier (Mark 1)
John 11	Raised Lazarus from the dead
Luke 22	Restored a man's ear that Peter cut off

Mark 1:22

- And they were astonished at his teaching, **for he taught them as one who had authority,** and not as the scribes.



The Testimony of Jesus

6. Jesus, the Lamb of God, suffered, was crucified and died for the sins of the whole world to inaugurate a new and better covenant between God and man and to secure an eternal redemption for all who believe in Him and the Gospel and purchased the one true church of God with His own blood.

***Luke 22:20, John 1:29, Heb 7:22, 9:12,
1 John 2:2**



Revelation 12:11

- And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.



1 Corinthians 15:3–4

- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,



Hebrews 2:9, 9:12

- But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the **suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.**
- he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, **thus securing an eternal redemption.**



The Testimony of Jesus

7. Jesus, the Savior of the world, was buried in His own new tomb and rose from the grave on the third day perfectly fulfilling the rejection, death, and bodily resurrection He predicted.

***Matt 16:21, 27:60, John 4:42, Acts 10:40**



1 John 4:4

- Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.



The Testimony of Jesus

8. Jesus, our great High Priest, demonstrated the reality of His resurrection for 40 days by appearing to His disciples and as many as 500 until He ascended to heaven where the one Mediator between God and man is seated on the right hand of God making intercession for the elect of God.

***Luke 22:69, Acts 1, 1 Cor 15, 1 Tim 2:5, Heb. 4:4, 7:25, 9:15,**



Hebrews 4:14

- Since then **we have a great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.



1 Timothy 2:5

- For there is one God, and
there is one mediator
between God and
men, the man Christ Jesus,



The Testimony of Jesus

9. Jesus, the last Adam, restored all that the first Adam lost and is the fulfillment of the Mosaic Law and all the Messianic promises in the Old Testament as the Christ.

***Matt 3:15, 5:17, Luke 24:44, 1 Cor 15:45**



Luke 24:44

- Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”



The Testimony of Jesus

10. Jesus, our blessed hope, is coming again in the same way that He left, to raise the dead, judge the world, reward the saints, and establish the eternal kingdom of God as the King of kings and Lord of lords over everything to the glory of God the Father.

***Acts 1:8, 24:15, Tit 2:13, 2 Pet 2:11, Rev 11:18, 19:16**



Titus 2:13

- waiting for **our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,



Revelation 22:12 (NASB95)

- “Behold, I am coming quickly,
and My reward *is* with Me,
to render to every man according
to what he has done.



**Do you keep the
commandments of
God?**

**Do you hold to the
testimony of the Lord
Jesus Christ?**

