

# Christian or Body of Christ?

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## What's in a name?

What is a Christian? What is the Body of Christ? Are the two one and the same, just semantics, interchangeable, six's, potato-potahto?

The Christian culture uses these two terms interchangeably, but there is a difference:

- **The Body of Christ**: A child of God, having the Spirit of God.
- **Christian - Gentile**: A member of a religion about God, or about a god, who does not have the Spirit of God. Neither the Christian religion nor the Gentile Christians are found anywhere in the Bible.
- **Christian - Jewish**: - A Jew from the first century who believed Jesus was the Messiah sent from God as prophesied in the Scriptures (our Old Testament) These Jews did not have the abiding Spirit of God.

Let's look at the facts.

## The Real Christians

The word "Christian" appears in the Bible twice, and "Christians" once. Two of the uses are found in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles (a.k.a. Acts) and the other in I Peter. Every mention of the word refers to Jews who believed Jesus was the Messiah. "Christian" was a label given these Jews by the people in the Roman culture of that day: a pejorative term, disparaging, and derogatory. These Jews called Christians were fully Jews following all the Jewish laws, diets, feasts, rituals, etc. Their only distinguishing trait is they also believed Jesus was the promised Messiah. And that is all they knew.

The Acts 2 Jewish Church was completely Jewish with no Gentile Body of Christ Believers. The Jewish Christians did experience the filling of the Holy Spirit in the event of speaking in tongues, but did not have the permanent indwelling Spirit of God. Neither did they understand anything about God's new message to mankind through the Apostle Paul. The reason is that Paul did not yet exist.

These Jews were put away with all the Jews during this final 2000 years of mankind: the Age of Grace. The Jewish writings, canonized in our New Testament, were written by these Jews who had no thought of the Gentiles, calling them dogs, sinners, and heathens. They could have no dealings with the Gentiles. Their writings never spoke to the Gentiles or referenced the Gentiles. These Jewish Hebrew books did not and do not offer guidance, doctrine, reproof, or correction to the Body of Christ, or to the Gentiles in general.

With God's gift of the indwelling Spirit, the Jews, and their writings, became obsolete, relegated to history as a source of valuable information that we might understand an earlier time.

For more information on this subject, see the articles "[All Scripture?](#)" and "[It is Finished](#)" on this site  
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**Fun Fact:** The modern-day Christian religion is nowhere found in the Bible.

**Fun Fact:** The word “Christian” was never a term used to denote Gentile believers in the Body of Christ.

**Fun Fact:** In the 30-plus years of the Apostles ministry and writings, neither Peter, Paul, James, John, nor Jude ever used the term Christian to describe themselves, their followers, or their church. They wanted nothing to do with the label.

**Fun Fact:** “Christian” was the name a post-apostolic religious group chose to name themselves. It was a religion created by man from many influences. It was never the Body of Christ and never had God or the Spirit of God. This is the Christian religion of today.

**Fun Fact:** The Body of Christ is not the Christian religion. It is not a religion. It is a relationship with God. The Body of Christ consists of many members who each have the indwelling Spirit of God and are themselves the temple of the Holy Spirit of God.

## The Self-Proclaimed Gentile Christians

In the post Apostolic age, the Pauline religions began to drift away from the influence of the late Paul. Sometime after the first century, one Gentile religious group chose to name their religion “Christian”, not to be confused with the Jewish Christian religion of Acts 2 - totally separate. By this time, the Jews had been put away, scattered to the four winds for the remainder of the Age of Grace.

Naming their religion “Christian” was the same as the Berean Church of today calling themselves “Bereans”. They are not really Bereans, they just liked the name, or maybe all the good names were taken. Either way, the names Christian and Berean were simply what people called themselves and have no particular significance or meaning. What they believe and teach defines these groups.

The Christian religion was not, and is not the Pauline Body of Christ. It began as a combination of many influences including idolatry, superstitions, traditions, science-so-called, philosophy, paganism, mysticism, humanism, knowledge, and many other religions and beliefs. This was the religion Constantine sanctioned in 313 AD as the official government religion of Rome.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Augustine added his mark to Christianity and the Roman Church with his errant teachings, setting the doctrines for religion for the next 1700 years. These Augustinian ideas would later be known as Covenant Theology and infect all of the Christian religions of Protestantism. Augustine did not understand the Pauline message God sent into the world through the Apostle Paul, the character and importance of Paul’s ministry, and did not understand Paul. Augustine, as evident in his writings, did not have the Spirit of God, hence, no spiritual discernment. This spiritual blindness created the array of non-biblical ideas and concepts he proffered to the world, and the result was the Catholic religion and Protestantism.

From this Roman pagan Christian religion and Augustine’s theological missteps, thirteen-hundred years later, the Reformation challenged the errors and corruption that was the Catholic Church. The resulting split led to numerous religious groups and religious thoughts and practices that were all non-biblical. This new religion called Protestantism maintained the same theology as the Roman pagan Christian church, that being the musings of Augustine.

See the article "[The Father of Modern Religion](#)" on this site for a complete report on the subject. PPGpilot.com

During the years of reformation, the reformers left the perverse Roman religion and carried the Christian name into the numerous derivatives and expressions of Protestantism, still following Augustinian Theology while making up doctrines of their own. Still, no Spirit of God meaning no guidance and no understanding.

Today, both the Roman Church and Protestantism follow some form of Covenant Theology and neither religion is biblical, nor are they the Body of Christ (a.k.a. Christ's Church).

**Fun Fact:** If the Apostle Paul were with us today, would tell his Church to run from the false gospels and false gods of the false religion called Christian. He would also add an anathema or two.

## Religions

Christian is a word that no longer has a single meaning as it has been over-used and spread too thin to cover far too many expressions of faith. This is part of Satan's campaign to unbuild the English language to the point words no longer mean anything. No one can call themselves a Christian without following the mention with some qualifying statement or explanation to define just exactly what, of the hundreds of potential doctrines, they believe.

The title "Christian" generally describes adherents of today's religions that are loosely based on God and the Bible. Catholics claim the title Christian as do the Mormons, and both claim allegiance to the Bible. Yet their beliefs are polar-opposites and neither is biblically accurate. Jehovah's Witnesses are adamant in their assertion that they are not only Christians, but they alone are the one true church (the same thing the Catholics and Mormons claim), and the JW's rewrote their Bible to prove it. Baptists and Pentecostals claim Christianity as does every other denomination under the Protestant umbrella, including the Snake Handlers and the Amish. All these groups, and their satellite offshoots, represent themselves as true Bible-believing Christians, and in their minds, they are! But the vast number of these individuals do not understand the Bible, are not members of the Body of Christ, do not have a relationship with God, lack the Spirit of God, and do not have salvation. Instead, they are deceived, under a delusion, and led astray into error, following a false religion they imagine about God without a relationship with God.

**Fun Fact:** The Bible is the defining line of truth and error. The problem is that these many religions lack the Spirit of God - the required key to understanding the Bible. So, without guidance, everyone is free to decide what the Bible means to them, and make up whatever suits their fancy. Still, the solid truth of the Bible remains, unaffected by these free agents, regardless of what they choose to believe in their ignorance.

**Fun Fact:** Notice that the Mormon and Catholic Churches are alive and well in this day-and-age despite their total ignorance of all things God and Bible. Hinduism and Islam also thrive as does the Anglican Church, Orthodoxy, Buddhism, and Confucianism. So too, the cults and the occults. There are numerous other religions that fit this mold including the various expressions of Protestantism. God allows these false religions to continue as the *wheat and the tares*.

Very soon, the removal of the Body of Christ from the earth (the rapture) will separate God's children from the lost and the religious, who follow a form of godliness but deny the power thereof.

## The Body of Christ

The Apostle Paul received from the ascended Christ the ministry of reconciliation to GO to the Gentiles, and the word of reconciliation to PREACH to the Gentile world. If you are looking for the truth about all things God and man, the 13 Pauline epistles are a must read. These are the same New Testament books ignored and misunderstood by the Christian religion.

Paul's Gospel and his Mystery that was hid in God from the beginning of the world, was simply the Spirit of God indwelling the believer, and salvation by God's grace through our faith. This is what Paul calls "***the simplicity that is in Christ***". The Body of Christ consists of people who have this Spirit of God and salvation through Christ. They have turned to God in faith, and by God's grace, have been adopted into the family of God. There is nothing else required as the believer is complete in Christ. Religion is not required or desired as it can only inhibit the truth, spiritual growth, and lead people astray.

The Body of Christ has nothing to do with a church, religion, denomination, or the word Christian, and has no "follow-up" requirements or responsibilities. Members of Christ's Church may never attend the retail religious institutions of our day as these gatherings offer nothing for them compared to their relationship with God through the Spirit.

The relationship with God is in and of itself complete.

Take your pick: Christian or Body of Christ. But choose wisely.

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Companion articles you might enjoy entitled "[Missionary Madness](#)" "[Why People Cannot Understand](#)" "[3 Bullet Points](#)" "[The New Testament Creation](#)" "[Nominal Christian Religion](#)" "[The Four Jewish Gospels](#)" "[What is a Cult](#)" "[The Jewish Hebrew Epistles](#)" PPGpilot.com