

## Acts 11:19-30

### Believers Were First Called Christians in Antioch

#### What does it mean to be a Christian?

##### 1. What people say (quotes revealing a misconception)

**The Barna research group** found in 2010 and 2011 that most Americans call themselves spiritual people, but there is little spiritual transformation. It does not happen or it does not last. The study noted that the barriers to transformation included lack of commitment, unwillingness to repent, confusing activity for growth and failure to engage in genuine **accountable community (being a regular, active part of a church)**.

**Luke 9:18-27;** <sup>18</sup> Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" <sup>19</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." <sup>20</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah." <sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." <sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

##### 2. Literally (Defined- verb tense is "Transact Business") Commitment to Christ

**Luke 19:10-13** For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. And as they heard these things, he added and spoke a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.**

##### 3. Practically (putting feet to faith)

**Luke 9:23-25** Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain

the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

Act 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

**1. The Gospel is priority** v. 19 & 26

We must first receive the Gospel & then live by the Gospel, Even in the face of adversity & persecution. They abandoned everything to run away from persecution, except the Gospel.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4** Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

**Colossians 1:23** if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**1 Corinthians 9:16** For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

**Acts 4:11-12** This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

**2. Unity & Love are imperative** v. 19-20 & 25 No lone rangers

**3. Acts 2:46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

Following the persecution they traveled together. V. 19-20  
Barnabas sought out Saul & they worked together for one year in Antioch.  
Ecclesia “**Called out ones**”

**Ephesians 4:1** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. (**Donnie & crew at CLF**)

**John 13:34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

**John 13:35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**John 15:12** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**John 15:17** These things I command you, that you love one another.

**Romans 12:10** *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

### **3. Serving others is critical**

**Acts 11:27-30** And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. (**Antioch Church Plant sent funds back to sending Church**)

**1 John 3:18** My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

**James 2:14-18** What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily

food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

I cannot work my soul to save  
for that my Lord has done  
but I can work like a slave  
for the love of God's dear son.