

19:9), and by the printed word (2 Peter 3:1). These avenues of teaching coupled with a Godly example, will be effective in relating the gospel to the unsaved. Note the example of the apostles and the early Christians (Acts 5:41-42, Acts 8:1-4).

A CHRISTIAN IS A SAINT

Writing to the Christians in Corinth Paul refers to them as the "church of God which is at Corinth, even them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:2). A Christian is sanctified, that is, set apart for a sacred purpose or consecrated to religious use. Paul describes the Christian as a new creature or creation in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), and indicates that God's children are "created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians 2:10). The Christian, therefore, is a saint, set apart for the Father's use to bring glory and honor to God's name before the world (Matthew 5:16).

A CHRISTIAN IS A PRIEST OF JEHOVAH GOD

In the Old Testament during the Jewish age, priests served the people as they worshipped God daily in the temple (Luke 1:8-10). The high priest entered the Holy of Holies (most holy) annually on the day of atonement to make sacrifice for his sins and sins of Israel (Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:25; Hebrews 10:1-4).

In the Christian age in which we are now living, Jesus Christ is the Christian's high priest (Hebrews 3:1; 4:15) who has made sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:11-10:12). As high priest Jesus Christ is our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). The child of God is a priest, a member of the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), who through Jesus Christ as his mediator can enter the throne room of Jehovah God (Hebrews 4:16), and offer his worship unto God.

A CHRISTIAN IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD

In His spiritual family, the church, Jehovah God is the Father (Ephesians 3:14-15; Hebrews 10:9), Jesus Christ is the elder brother (Hebrews 2:11-12), and Christians are brothers and sisters in His family (Matthew 23:8; Galatians 6:1-2). As the Christian walks in the light (according to the righteous instructions of God), he enjoys fellowship with God and His children (1 John 1:7). Within this fellowship the Christian experiences a love which is unknown or even understood by the world (John 13:34).

The family of God is made up of many members which compose one body (1 Corinthians 12:20;

Ephesians 4:4), which is the church (Colossians 1:18). It is to the church that the saved are added (Acts 2:47) and it is the body which Christ will save (Ephesians 5:23).

A CHRISTIAN IS MARRIED (SPIRITUALLY) TO CHRIST

When John the baptizer declared that he was not the Christ (John 3:28), he identified himself as the friend of the bridegroom and established the fact that the bridegroom is Jesus Christ (John 3:28-30). The apostle Paul identifies the church as the bride of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:2-3). Paul taught the Romans that they "were made dead to the law through the body of Christ; that ye should be married or joined to another, even to him who was raised from the dead" (Romans 7:1-4). When one obeys the gospel of Jesus Christ his sins are removed by the blood of Jesus and then God adds him to the church (Acts 2:36-47) which is the bride of Jesus Christ!

The child of God is to be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10), and is promised eternal life in heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

BLESSINGS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

Although there are many blessings which come as a result of being a Christian, the limitation of space will not allow the enumeration of each one. Some of the most familiar are:

1. Spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
2. Protection during the time of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).
3. Abundant life on earth (John 10:10).
4. Assurance of eternal life in heaven (John 14:1-4).

The Christian is thankful to God for these and all other blessings which enable him to walk in the light as he is in the light!

Who Is A Christian?



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