

## Introduction

1. The powerful prophecy of [Isaiah 62:1-2](#) finds its fulfillment in [Acts 11:26](#) when, after the first Gentile converts were added to the church, the disciples were called by God Christians first in Antioch
  - a. The next time we see the name “Christian”, is when Paul stood trial before King Herod Agrippa II, when the king declared, “...You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” ([Ac. 26:28](#) NKJV)
  - b. The last occurrence of the name “Christian” is seen in our text and connected with suffering and glorifying God ([1 Pt. 4:16](#))

### I. The Name “Christian” Contains the Name of Christ

1. Christ (Greek term) is equivalent to Messiah (Hebrew term) which means “anointed one” ([Jn. 1:41](#), [4:25](#))
  - a. Three offices required anointing under the Law of Moses: priest, prophet, and king ([Ex. 28:41](#); [1 Kgs. 19:16](#))
2. While Christ was on Earth, the term used to describe those that adhered to His teachings was “disciples” (learners) of Christ ([Ac. 11:26](#); cf. [Jn. 1:37](#))
  - a. Learning from the Father, brings one to Christ ([Jn. 6:44-45](#))
  - b. Christians are connected with being learners of Christ ([Mt. 11:28-30](#))
3. Christ is the only name connected with salvation ([Ac. 4:10-12](#))

### II. The Christian Shares in the Sufferings of Christ (1 Pt. 4:12-19)

1. This makes sense as Christians are members of Christ’s body, the church ([1 Pt. 5:14](#) “in Christ Jesus”)
  - a. Those that Peter addressed were born again ([1 Pt. 1:3, 23](#); cf. [Jn. 3:3-5](#))
  - b. The only place we can glorify God is in the church that belongs to His Son ([Eph. 3:21](#))
  - c. The church is the house [family] of God ([1 Pt. 4:17](#); [1 Tim. 3:15](#))
  - d. The church is God’s moral culture in the midst of an immoral world
  - e. The church must be those that obey the gospel of God
  - f. There is suffering connected with sin ([1 Pt. 4:15](#)), but there is no glory in that ([1 Pt. 2:19-20](#))

2. To get to it [Heaven] we must go through it [suffering]
  - a. Difficulty will be present for the Christian, but we can endure through it

### **III. The Christian is One That Follows Christ (1 Pt. 2:21-25)**

1. Christ is the Chief Shepherd ([1 Pt. 5:4](#)), and Christians are His sheep ([Jn. 10:1-30](#))
2. Following Christ is a daily task ([Lk. 9:23-26](#))
3. Christ always did those things that pleased the Father ([Jn. 8:29](#))
4. Christ always sought to do the will of the Father ([Jn. 6:38](#))
5. Christ learned obedience through the things which He suffered ([Heb. 5:8-9](#))
6. Christ placed the trust of His spirit in God’s hands ([Lk. 23:46](#))

### **Conclusion**

1. God’s definition of a Christian
  - a. One who wears the name of Christ
  - b. One who shares in the sufferings of Christ
  - c. One who follows Christ