

Talmid Shorts

Dr. Eddie Idefonso, Pastor

Talmid תלמיד a Hebrew word that means “a true disciple who desires to be what the Rabbi Jesus is.”

“Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.” [1 John 2:6 \(NIV\)](#)

Mathētēs μαθητής a Greek word for disciple.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Being a Christian is more than identifying yourself with a particular religion or affirming a certain value system. Being a Christian means you have embraced what the Bible says about God, mankind, and salvation. Consider the following truths found in Scripture.

God Is Sovereign Creator

Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve, and enjoy endless fellowship with Him. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything ([John 1:3](#); [Colossians 1:16](#)).

[John 1:3 \(NASB\)](#)

3 “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

[Colossians 1:16 \(NASB\)](#)

16 “For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

Therefore, He also owns and rules everything ([Psalm 103:19](#)).

[Psalm 103:19 \(NASB\)](#)

19 “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”

That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship.

God Is Holy

God is absolutely and perfectly holy ([Isaiah 6:3](#)), therefore He cannot commit or approve of evil ([James 1:13](#)).

[Isaiah 6:3 \(NASB\)](#)

3 “And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

[James 1:13 \(NASB\)](#)

13 “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.”

God requires holiness of us as well.

[First Peter 1:16](#) says, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

[1 Peter 1:16 \(NASB\)](#)

16 “Because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

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Mankind Is Sinful

According to Scripture, everyone is guilty of sin: “There is no man who does not sin” ([1 Kings 8:46](#)).

[1 Kings 8:46 \(NASB\)](#)

46 “When they sin against You (**for there is no man who does not sin**) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near.”

That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. But we're utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own ([Romans 3:10-12](#)).

[Romans 3:10-12 \(NASB\)](#)

10 “as it is written, “**THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;**”

11 “**THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;**”

12 “**ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.**”

Sin Demands a Penalty

God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death: ([Ezekiel 18:4](#)).

[Ezekiel 18:4 \(NASB\)](#)

4 “Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. **The soul who sins will die.**”

That's why simply changing our patterns of behavior can't solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences.

Jesus Is Lord and Savior

The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything ([Colossians 1:16](#)).

[Colossians 1:16 \(NASB\)](#)

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That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship. **Romans 10:9** says, “**If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.**” Even though God’s justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior who paid the penalty and died for sinners (**1 Peter 3:18**).

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB)

18 “For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

Christ’s death satisfied the demands of God’s justice and Christ’s perfect life satisfied the demands of God’s holiness (**2 Corinthians 5:21**),

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

21 “He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin on our behalf*, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him (**Romans 3:26**).

Romans 3:26 (NASB)

26 “For the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

The Character of Saving Faith

True faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin (**Luke 13:3, 5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9**)

Luke 13:5 (NASB)

5 “I tell you, no, **but unless you repent**, you will all likewise perish.”

1 Thessalonians 1:9 (NASB)

9 “For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and **how you turned to God from idols** to serve a living and true God.”

and pursue Christ (**Matthew 11:28-30; John 17:3**)

Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)

28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

29 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**”

30 “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

John 17:3 (NASB)

3 “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

and obedience to Him (**1 John 2:3**).

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1 John 2:3 (NASB)

3 “By this we know that we have come to know Him, **if we keep His commandments.**”

It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God (**James 2:19**),

James 2:19 (NASB)

19 “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.”

but they don't love and obey Him. True saving faith always responds in obedience (**Ephesians 2:10**).

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)

10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

1 John 2:6 (NASB)

6 “The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”