

I Don't Know What I Believe Part 5: How do I know that I'm a Christian?

(James 1:5 NIV) If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Cultural Christianity

(Matthew 7:21 TLB) Not all who sound religious are really godly people (christian). They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but still won't get to heaven.

✓ I'm a good person.

✓ I've been to Church.

✓ I was raised in a religious home.

✓ I own a Bible / I have a Bible App.

How do I know that I'm a Christian?

(Matthew 7:22-23 NIV) Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Christianity begins with knowing Jesus.

(Matthew 16:13-19 NLT) When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

1. We confess Jesus is the Messiah.

(Matthew 16:16 NLT) Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

(Romans 10:9-10 NLT) If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

(Acts 2:41 HCSB) So those who accepted his message were baptized.

2. We are changed.

(Matthew 16:18a NLT) Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock').

(Luke 5:31 MSG) I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders—an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out.

(Galatians 6:15 NLT) It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation.

3. We build the Church.

(Matthew 16:18b NLT) Upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

(Ephesians 4:12 NLT) (Leaderships) responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

(Romans 14:19 NLT) So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

4. We carry authority.

(Matthew 16:19 NLT) And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

(Luke 10:19 NIV) I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

(Ephesians 3:20 NIV) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

(Philippians 1:6 ESV) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.