

## Are You a True Christian?

Some might be tempted to reply to our title question with, “How dare you ask such a question!” or “You can’t question someone else’s beliefs!” or “Each person’s faith is between Him and God/Christ!” or “You have no right to ‘judge’ another’s relationship with God/Christ.” Whether or not any (or all) of these objections have merit is not really the point of the question is it? The question simply calls for self-inspection, self-introspection, and self-declaration. But our title does, obviously, imply that there is such a thing as a “false” Christian. Such should not surprise us at all since the NT warns of:

- False “*witnesses*,” Matt.15:9 who *swear* and *testify* to things that are not true;
- False “*teachers*,” 2Pet.2:1, who *teach* things that are not true;
- False “*prophets*,” Matt.5:11, who *reveal* things that are not true;
- False “*spirits*,” 1John 4:1, who *lead/direct* in things that are not true;
- False “*apostles*,” 2Cor.11:3, who *proclaim* things that are not true;
- False “*gospels*,” Gal.1:6-7, which *declare* things that are not true;
- False “*Christs*,” Matt.24:24, who *claim* things that are not true;
- False “*knowledge*,” 1Tim.6:20, that *believes* things that are not true; and,
- False “*brethren*,” 2Cor.11:26, who *pretend* things that are not true.

From noting all of these *falsities*, there are obviously “Christians” that are not true, and you or I may be one of them! Therefore, we would do well to follow the **true instructions** given by the **true Holy Spirit** of the *one and only true God* through the **true apostle Paul** in 2Cor.13:5a, “*Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!*” That is, and obviously paraphrased, “Are you a **true Christian**?”

We can be “honest and sincere” and still be wrong if our faith comes *false witnesses, teachers, prophets, spirits, apostles, brethren*, and even *Christs* who proclaim and teach *false gospels*. How could we derive from such sources anything but *false knowledge* and therefore *false faith*, since **true faith** comes from “*hearing*” (*listening to and understanding*) the **true “word of Christ,”** Rom.10:17?

Given these things, the notion common among many who profess to be Christians that “If you’re honest and sincere in your beliefs/faith, that God will accept you or your worship” is simply preposterous, and obviously FALSE. Don’t believe me? Note carefully Matt.7:21-23’s depiction of the judgment scene where some who profess not only allegiance to Christ, but claim to have *prophesied, casted out demons, and performed many miracles “in Your (Christ’s, PCS) name”* were told by Jesus, “*I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.*” Please observe that Jesus contradicted neither the “honesty” nor the “sincerity” of these claims; He just said, “*I never knew you.*” Thus, despite their beliefs about themselves, they had never been **truly** His. They weren’t then, nor had they ever been, “**true Christians.**” And why do you suppose this regrettably sad scene will occur? Two reasons are provided in 2Thess.2: 1) “*they did not receive a love of the truth so as to be saved,*” v.10b; and, 2) they “*did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness,*” v.12b.

Now I ask again the question of our title, “**Are You a *True* Christian?**” We all had better “*test*” and “*examine*” ourselves by the **TRUE** standard of God’s Word “*to see if*” **WE** really “*are in the faith,*” 2Cor.13:5! It matters eternally. (Philip C. Strong; Viking Drive Church of Christ; 3791 Viking Drive, Bossier City, LA; online at [vikingdrivechurchofchrist.com](http://vikingdrivechurchofchrist.com); email to [mrpcstrong@hotmail.com](mailto:mrpcstrong@hotmail.com))