

What Does It Mean When People Say They Are Christians?

The Christian Worldview

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Biblical

A Biblical worldview is defined as:

- 1. Believing that absolute moral truths exist;**
- 2. that such truth is defined by the Word of God;**
- 3. that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life as the Redeemer of all mankind and He is the only way to heaven;**
- 4. God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today;**
- 5. salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned;**
- 6. Satan and Hell are real;**
- 7. a Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others; and,**
- 8. the Bible is 100% accurate in all of its teachings.**

I'm A Christian!



69% of American adults self-identify as Christian! They do embrace many basic tenets of the Biblical worldview. Yet, most hold to views that are in direct conflict with the teachings of God's Holy Word!

I'm A Christian!



**Of the 69% who
self-identify as
Christian, only
9%
actually possess a
Biblical
worldview!**

I'm A Christian!



Yet a segment of Christians
known as “Integrated
Disciples” consisting of only
6%

hold to the Biblical
worldview and
demonstrate a consistent
understanding and
application of Biblical
principles!

How Many Adults Fall Within These Faith Categories?

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Self-identified Christians	69	176 Mil
Self-identified born-again Christians	35	89 Mil
Self-identified evangelical Christians	28	71 Mil
Theologically born-again Christians	28	71 Mil
Integrated Disciples – possessing a Biblical Worldview	6	15 Mil

Source: National research conducted by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University

How Many Adults Fall Within These Faith Categories?

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Self-identified Christians	69	176 Mil

They say that they are Christians! These include the broadest spectrum of theological viewpoints. Here's what they believe:

- **79% believe that God has a reason for everything**
- **77% say they have a unique, God-given calling**
- **74% say they intentionally try to avoid sinning, since they know it hurts God!**
- **72% claim that every moral choice either honors or dishonors God**
- **62% agree that the universe was designed, created and sustained by God**
- **61% believe God is all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect and just.**

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(in Hinduism and Buddhism) the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences.

- **72% believe people are basically good**
- **71% consider feelings, experience, or input from family and friends their most trusted source of moral guidance**
- **66% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue**
- **64% claim that all religious faiths are equal in value**
- **58% believe that if a person is good enough, does good things, they can earn their way into heaven**
- **58% believe that the Holy Spirit is NOT a real, living being but merely a symbol of God's power, presence, or purity!**
- **57% believe in karma (destiny or fate, following as effect from cause)**
- **52% claim that moral truth is up to the individual; there is NO moral absolutes that apply to everyone, at all times!**

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So what's the Problem?!

These “Christians” reject these teachings of God:

- + Marriage is between ONE man and ONE woman (46%);**
- + believe they will go to heaven... (40%)**
- + they are born in sin and can only be saved by the atoning death of Jesus Christ (34%)**
- + believes that pre-marital sex is morally unacceptable (sexual immorality) (32%)**
- + believes that obedience to God leads to a successful life (28%)**

How Many Adults Fall Within These Faith Categories?

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Self-identified born-again Christians	35	89 Mil

This is the group that calls themselves born-again Christians! Note that they are about half of the total population of those who say they are Christians. Here's what they believe:

- **78% believe that marriage is between ONE man & ONE woman**
- **77% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue**
- **72% believe that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect/just**
- **69% consider feelings, experience, or input from family and friends their most trusted source of moral guidance**
- **65% say there is NO moral truth**
- **60% believe that God's Word is accurate and reliable**

How Many Adults Fall Within These Faith Categories?

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Self-identified born-again Christians	35	89 Mil

- **62% believe that the Holy Spirit is NOT a real, living being but merely a symbol of God's power, presence, or purity!**
- **64% claim that all religious faiths are equal in value**
- **60% believe that if a person is good enough, does good things, they can earn their way into heaven**
- **44% believe they will go to heaven...**

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Self-identified Evangelical/Theological Born-Again Christians	28	71 Mil

- **84% believe that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect/just**
- **74% believe that God's Word is accurate and reliable**
- **56% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue**
- **54% consider feelings, experience, or input from family and friends their most trusted source of moral guidance**
- **51% claim that all religious faiths are equal in value**
- **50% believe that the Holy Spirit is NOT a real, living being but merely a symbol of God's power, presence, or purity!**
- **40% say there is NO moral truth**
- **37% believe that if a person is good enough, does good things, they can earn their way into heaven**
- **31% believe that the Bible is ambiguous concerning abortion**

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Integrated Disciples – possessing a Biblical Worldview	6	15 Mil

- **99% believe that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect/just**
- **99% believe that God's Word is accurate and reliable**
- **99% say they have a unique God-given calling**
- **99% say they intentionally avoid sinning...hurts God**
- **96% claim that moral choice either honors or dishonors God**
- **88% believe that God has a reason for everything**

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Integrated Disciples – possessing a Biblical Worldview	6	15 Mil

There is a small minority, however, whose beliefs are in direct opposition to God's Holy Word:

- 52% believe people are basically good
- 42% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue
- **39% believe that the Holy Spirit is NOT a real, living being but merely a symbol of God's power, presence, or purity!**
- 33% believe in karma (destiny or fate, following as effect from cause)
- 25% claim that moral truth is up to the individual; there is NO moral absolutes that apply to everyone, at all times!
- **9% claim that all religious faiths are equal in value**
- 8% believe the Bible is ambiguous concerning abortion
- 5% believe that if a person is good enough, does good things, they can earn their way into heaven
- 4% consider feelings, experience, or input from family and friends their most trusted source of moral guidance

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Integrated Disciples – possessing a Biblical Worldview	6	15 Mil

- ~~52% believe people are basically good (Luke 18:19)~~
- ~~42% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue (Prov. 3:5-6; Psalm 27; Rom. 3; Rom. 5; Rom. 8; Rom. 10; 1 Tim. 2:5-6)~~
- ~~39% believe that the Holy Spirit is NOT a real, living being but merely a symbol of God's power, presence, or purity! (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:30; Job 26:13; John 15:26, 27; 16:5-15)~~
- ~~33% believe in karma (destiny or fate, following as effect from cause) (Lk. 16:19-31; Heb. 9:27; Gal. 6; Eph. 2:8, 9;)~~
- ~~25% claim that moral truth is up to the individual; there is NO moral absolutes that apply to everyone, at all times! (Ten Commandments; John 17:17)~~
- ~~9% claim that all religious faiths are equal in value (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 10)~~

Description of the Category	% of Adults	No. of Adults
Integrated Disciples – possessing a Biblical Worldview	6	15 Mil

There is a small minority, however, whose beliefs are in direct opposition to God’s Holy Word:

- ~~8% believe the Bible is ambiguous concerning abortion (Fifth Commandment!; Ps. 22; Ps. 51; Ps. 139; Rev. 22:15)~~
- ~~5% believe that if a person is good enough, does good things, they can earn their way into heaven (Eph. 2:8, 9)~~
- ~~4% consider feelings, experience, or input from family and friends their most trusted source of moral guidance (Ten Commandments; John 17:17)~~

It's one thing to call yourself a fan of a sports team or a devotee of a particular brand. It's something else altogether to call yourself by the Name of the Savior of humankind (*your LORD and King!*).

Jesus spoke to this issue during His Sermon on the Mount. He admonished people who claim to be one of His followers only if they were seriously applying His principles in their life. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matthew 7:21-23, ESV)

Obedience is of paramount importance to Jesus. He noted that a person would be His disciple if they obey His teachings (John 8:31). It follows, then, that when a person claims to be a “Christian” it refers to one who is striving to know and follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

That is not always the case in contemporary America, as the Cultural Research Center data persuasively demonstrate, “Too often, it seems, people who are simply religious, or regular churchgoers, or perhaps people who want a certain reputation or image embrace the label ‘Christian,’ regardless of their spiritual life and intentions” explained George Barna, the lead researcher at the Cultural Research Center. “Christian” has become somewhat of a generic term rather than a name that reflects a deep commitment to passionately pursuing and being like Jesus Christ.

Thus, says the LORD!

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” (St. Matt. 16:24-26)

“If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (St. John 8:31, 32, 34-36)