What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?

Walcott Steele · Romans 12:1–2

INTRODUCTION

- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice. Holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- What does it mean to be a Christian? And I want to look at that question from three points.
- For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things. Though you know and are established in the present truth.

1 Our Relationship With One Another

John 13:34–35; Ephesians 4:32; Galatians 6:2

- The word of God is filled with things about how we are to be treating each other, the things that we are responsible for one another.
- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.
- Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
- Let us consider one another to stir up unto love or to provoke one another unto love and good works.
- With all these one another passages, brethren, we ought to ask ourselves with the time that we meet … Is it enough for us to accomplish all these things?
- What does it mean to be a Christian when it comes to our relationship with one another? It means that we do have a lot of work to do.

2 A Christian Under the Oversight of Shepherds

Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–4; Hebrews 13:17

- Paul sought to establish elders, shepherds, wherever the church was established.
- Take heed therefore to yourselves, and to all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with his own blood.
- Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion, but willingly, not for dishonest gain, but eagerly.
- What is our response? What is our response to the shepherds of the flock?
- Obey those who rule over you and be submissive. For they watch out for your souls as those who must give account.
- Shepherds of a local church also watch for the things that are spiritually harmful to the flock.

3 Our Relationship With the World: Salt and Light

Romans 12:2

- You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

- Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- We're to be salt and light to the world. We're not to conform to the world.
- We're in a battle each day where the world is forcing on us the ideas and the ideologies that are presented, but we're not to conform to the world.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you see your shepherds as people just heckling you whenever you're not here or something like that? What is your relationship to the world? Do you shine as a light? Are we seeking to do that?

MY NOTES