

sermon  SNAPSHOTS

# Just a CHRISTIAN!

*fishers*  
Church of Christ



**Thank you for picking up a copy of our Sermon Snapshot! We hope you will use this tool for personal study or an easy to use template when studying with friends and neighbors about important spiritual matters!**

Acts 11:22-26 reveals the first time the name “Christian” (follower of Christ) was used. Many Bible students believe that this name was God-given (“called” in other texts). I’ve always believed and taught that we should be “just” Christians, rather than some “kind” of Christian or “hyphenated” Christian (e.g., Baptist-Christian). Let’s consider what it means to be “just” a Christian...

After reading our snapshot you have a decision to make. Will you become a Christian – and JUST a Christian? It’s my hope and prayer that you will do just that (Acts 26:29)! To start your journey, you must be baptized into Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-27). Then you must learn, grow, and be faithful (Revelations 2:10). Please come to Jesus, He’s patiently waiting!

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## JUST A CHRISTIAN!



### By “Just” Christians, I mean “only, simply, truly” Christians

- ✚ Illustrated by a widow indeed – a real, true, genuine widow with no family to turn to (**1Timothy 5:3-5**)
- ✚ Illustrated by an Israelite indeed – neither Pharisee, Sadducee, nor other “denomination” (**John 1:43-47**)
- ✚ Illustrated by disciples indeed – those who only, simply, truly follow Jesus (**John 8:31-32; Acts 11:26**)
- ✚ Thus, “just” a Christian means **NO** competing loyalties; a Christian indeed” (truly, really, undeniably)

### Contrast this to *denominational concepts of a Christian:*

- ✚ “Denominations” seek to “denominate” (name) *in order to distinguish competing loyalties*
- ✚ Examples: Catholics (loyalty to Pope); Methodists (to Wesley); Lutherans (to Luther); etc.
- ✚ Each group has distinctive names, creeds, and practices – to *differentiate* from others!
- ✚ *This entire concept is contrary to the Scriptures!* (**John 17:20-21; Titus 3:10-11; 1Corinthians 1:10-13**)

### In view of these facts, how can you be “just” a Christian?

- ✚ Give up all distinctive names! They only glorify *men* or the *doctrines* of men (**1Corinthians 1:13-15**)
- ✚ Give up all human creeds! Statements of faith that are “bound” by *human* authority (**Colossians 2:8**)
- ✚ Give up all humanly devised practices! Human tradition is *contrary* to God’s will (**Matthew 15:7-9**)
- ✚ *Then, resolve that everything you do will be guided by the authority of Jesus!* (**Colossians 3:17**)

### To tie all of this together, consider this simple illustration

There was once a “Baptist-Methodist Union Meeting,” which only required faith in Christ and baptism by immersion of its converts, to satisfy both denominations. Afterwards, the two preachers tried to divide the 60 converts into Baptists and Methodists. However, there were twenty “hold-outs,” who wished to remain what they were originally: **just Christians!** That is our appeal: to be “just Christians!”

It’s God-given (Acts 11:26), God-glorifying (1Peter 4:16), and the name I persuade you to wear (Acts 26:28). Religious unity IS possible! It only requires faith to give up man-made religion for TRUTH! (John 8:32)

-Lanny Smith



# Join us for Worship!

## Times of Service

**Sunday Worship: 10 am**  
**Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm**  
**Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm**

## Elders

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