



CHRISTIANITY Q&A **"What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?" Acts 11:19-26**

No. 5072

Stuart Briscoe

The name "Christian" was given to some of Christ's disciples as an uncomplimentary nickname, but in time it became a recognized designation of those who followed Christ. In more recent times the meaning of the term has become confused. A look at its origins should help.

I. To Be a Christian Means to Be Related to Christ.

- A. Christian as a nominal concept.
- B. Christian as a national concept.
- C. Christian as a vital relationship.
 - 1. The Lord Jesus was proclaimed. v. 20
 - a. The good news of Jesus.
 - b. The good news of Lord.
 - 2. The Lord's hand was upon them. v. 21
 - 3. The Lord was acknowledged. v. 21
 - a. Acknowledged by belief.
 - b. Acknowledged by turning to Him.
 - c. Acknowledged by wholeheartedness. v. 23
 - d. Acknowledged by faithfulness.

II. To Be a Christian Involves Living Faith.

- A. Faith life that is stronger than persecution. v. 19
- B. Faith life that desires to share the blessing. vv. 20, 29
- C. Faith life that demonstrates grace in action. v. 23
- D. Faith life that requires the power of the Spirit. v. 24
- E. Faith life that is nourished in teaching. v. 26
- F. Faith life that exhibits true discipleship.

III. To Be a Christian Means to Be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. v. 27

- A. Persuaded to be the point of commitment. Acts 26:28
- B. Privileged to bear the name of Christ. 1 Peter 4:16
- C. Persevering to the end of the road.