

THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GOD'S DEFINITION OF A CHRISTIAN

1 John 5:1-5 Jeff Schreve

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

What are the tell-tale signs of a true, born again Christian?

1. A true Christian believes Jesus is the Christ.

A. You recognize His true identity.

And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins." John 8:23-24

B. You trust Him as Lord and Savior.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:10-13

2. A true Christian is changed in his heart.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

1 John 5:1-3

A. You have a genuine love for God.

"... but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

John 20:17

B. You have a genuine love for the people of God.

C. You have a genuine desire to obey the commands of God.

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

John 14:23-24

3. A true Christian experiences God's overcoming power.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5

A. Faith is the key to victory.

B. Faith is believing what God says and acting upon it.

Will you take a step of faith right now?