



What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

By Johnny Caruso on June 9, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Romans 7

While reading Romans 7, I came across a note I had written in the margin of my Bible. It said: "What does it mean to be a Christian? What is a Christian supposed to be like?"

I tried to remember where and why I wrote those questions down. Under the questions were the letters AR. Then I remembered one day I was listening to a pastor who has already gone home. I remembered meeting him for the first time and then was involved in several conversations with him within a group of my peers. The pastor was Adrian Rogers, pastor for many years of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN. As I read the first six verses of the chapter, I could remember Adrian's deep, baritone voice preaching this section of scripture and how these verses answer the questions, "What does it mean to be a Christian? What is a Christian supposed to be like?"

Chapter 7 gives us a pretty good idea of what it means to be a Christian and what that life looks like! Remember, Paul has been telling us how the law and faith are contradictory principles: The law leads to death and faith to life. By this point in his letter some were probably wondering, "Then what do we do with the law? What place does the law have in Christian discipleship now that Jesus has come?"

The main point Paul wanted to get across to them was this: Because of their faith in Christ, they had been set free—legally free—from the obligations of the law. They were no longer bound to it. Christ's death set them free to bear fruit for God. This is what the Christian life is all about: The triumph of the grace of God!

Paul made it clear that the law does not and cannot bring victory over sin and death, since sin is defined and even promoted through the law. But, those who have died with Christ are set free from sin and the law.

To be free in Christ means we do not live by obeying a set of rules. We cannot earn God's grace since we fall short of His righteousness. But, instead, we live out of a renewed heart and mind that overflows with love for God. The truth of this passage is that you have died to your sinful nature; it no longer has control over us and we now live by the new way of the Holy Spirit.

Take some time and think about all you have been set free from. How can we live for God today?

PRAYER: Father, thank You for the freedom you have given those who are Christ followers. Help us worship You in those freedoms and not be in bondage to the law any longer.

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 8

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