

July 1, 2018
Acts 11:19-30
Sermon Notes

What is a Christian?

Orthomissio: A Christian has the right mission

1 Corinthians 10:33 NLT

33 I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved.

From the perspective of eternity we will look back on these brief 2,000 years or so, and the relative conditions of human life from the Dark Ages to the age of moon-landing and wrist-watch televisions will be utterly insignificant in comparison to the all-important distinguishing mark of this period between the first and the second comings of Christ - this was the time when people could be saved by trusting Christ.
John Piper

Matthew 6:21-23 ESV

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Anything that changes your values will change your behavior.

George Sheehan

What is a Christian?

Orthodoxy: A Christian has the right doctrine

One of the primary goals of Christian theology is to determine what is - and what is not - orthodoxy. There is right thinking, and there is wrong thinking. Wrong thinking, in theological terms, is called heresy.

James Emery White

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Barriers to orthodoxy in the current age: anti-intellectualism

Matthew 28:20 ESV

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed, to consider well that the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning.

Harvard University, 1643

Barriers to orthodoxy in the current age: lack of critical thinking

Barriers to orthodoxy in the current age: looking to the wrong source of authority

The Christian mind is a mind that operates under the belief that there is something outside of ourselves that we must take into account. There is a God, who is not silent.

James Emery White

What is a Christian?

Orthopraxy: A Christian has the right conduct

James 2:14-16 ESV

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?