

Acts 11 “Christ i-a-n-s” OGCF May 23, 2021

[#1] To the Jews living in biblical times, world population was divided into two groups: Jews and everyone else - “ ”.
(Gen. 17:10, 14 Abraham, Exodus 31:16-17 Moses)

[#2] What decides our status with God now, is our relationship with
 ... by faith ALONE in Jesus ALONE!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever (Jew or Gentile) believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

[#3] God’s “ ”, has thrown open the doors for God’s Grace to be freely shared with all mankind!

[#4] I love this phrase ... “he was glad” ... in contrast to “those of the circumcision”, for legalism makes people !
(Acts 9:22, Acts 9:15)

[#5] Before Antioch, followers of Jesus went by different names, “believers,” “disciples,” “receivers of the Word,” “servants,” “people of the way,” to list a few. But they were first called
“ ” at Antioch.

[#6] This is Christianity ... to ‘belong to Jesus’ to such an extent that our lives are radically changed and filled to overflowing with His
 !

John 13:34–35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Acts 11 “Christ i-a-n-s” OGCF May 23, 2021

[#1] To the Jews living in biblical times, world population was divided into two groups: Jews and everyone else - “Gentiles”.
(Gen. 17:10, 14 Abraham, Exodus 31:16-17 Moses)

[#2] What decides our status with God now, is our relationship with
Jesus ... by faith ALONE in Jesus ALONE!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever (Jew or Gentile) believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

[#3] God’s “Gentile Pentecost”, has thrown open the doors for God’s Grace to be freely shared with all mankind!

[#4] I love this phrase ... “he was glad” ... in contrast to “those of the circumcision”, for legalism makes people Sour!
(Acts 9:22, Acts 9:15)

[#5] Before Antioch, followers of Jesus went by different names, “believers,” “disciples,” “receivers of the Word,” “servants,” “people of the way,” to list a few. But they were first called
“Christians” at Antioch.

[#6] This is Christianity ... to ‘belong to Jesus’ to such an extent that our lives are radically changed and filled to overflowing with His
Love!

John 13:34–35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

7) Sometimes creating extra rules for ourselves can be helpful in our struggle against sin - but they must remain a *personal* rule, rather than a law all Christians must follow. For example, a believer might decide never to drink alcohol, while the Bible only condemns getting drunk. Are there any "extra rules" that have been helpful to you personally?

TAKING IT HOME

- 8) Are there any "extra rules" you need to *add or remove* from your life, in order to draw nearer to Jesus?
- 9) How can you better love other Christians who live differently than you do in non-essential areas?
- 10) Looking over your notes and homework, is there anything you need to put into practice or change?

PRAYER REQUESTS

-
-
-

Life Group Homework For the week of May 23, 2021

MY STORY

- 1) In Acts 11, Peter defended his ministry to the Gentiles by explaining the Holy Spirit's leading and vision given in the previous chapter. Do you think the Holy Spirit still speaks through dreams and visions today? Why or why not?

How has your understanding or view on the Holy Spirit's leading changed as you've grown spiritually?

- 2) If you had a supernatural dream or vision, how would you determine whether or not it came from God?

REVIEW

- 3) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) The Jewish Christians in Acts 11 were stuck on their traditions. Many of the Israelites were confident that they were well pleasing to God - simply because they were born an Israelite and had the works of circumcision! This hindered them from understanding God's grace. What

stands out to you from the following passage about Abraham, the father of Israel?

Romans 4:1-5, 9-12 NLT - "[1] Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? [2] If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. [3] For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." [4] When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. [5] But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. ... [9] Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. [10] But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised! [11] Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous--even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. [12] And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.

How was Abraham “saved” or “justified” by God?

Based on Romans 4, who are Abraham’s “true” children?

- 5) As we grow spiritually, it can be tempting to slip into legalism. Legalism is when we emphasize non-essential rules over God's grace and truth. What stands out to you from the following passage about our freedoms in Christ?

Romans 14:1-4, 12-17- "[1] Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. [2] For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. [3] Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. [4] Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. ... [12] So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. [13] Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." [14] I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. [15] Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. [16] Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; [17] for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

- 6) Are you more tempted to place your personal convictions upon others, or to try and live up to the personal convictions of others? Why do you think this is?