**Why Should I Be Called “Christian”?**

**Reading - Acts 11:19-26**

**1. OWNERSHIP**

We have ALWAYS been slaves in practically every sense. ***[Romans 6:15-23] What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!  16Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?  17But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.  18And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.  19I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.  21What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.  22But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.  23For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***[1 Corinthians 7:22-23] For he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise, he who was free when called is a slave of Christ.  23You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.***

1. Notice that you were bought by Christ and purchased by His blood (Acts 20:28)

**2. HONOR** (For sacrifice offered)

***[1 Corinthians 1:10-13] Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.  11For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you.  12Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.”  13Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?***

**3. AUTHORITY** (For salvation)

***[Acts 4:7-12] And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” 8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:  9If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,  10let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.  11This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’  12Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”***

**4. MARRIAGE**

***[Romans 7:1-4] Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?  2For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.  3So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.  4Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.***

**5. PROMINENCE**

***[Philippians 2:5-10] Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,  6who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,  7but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.  8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.  9Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,***

**6. DIVINE DESIGNATION --** Acts 11:26 - The disciples were first called “Christians” in Antioch:

**7. COMMENDATION** -

A. Jesus commends the church at Pergamos for “holding fast to My name”  ***[Revelation 2:12-13] And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:  13“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells***. ).

I want to be commended of the Lord, don't you?