

# Christian, Believer or Follower?

When I was a teenager, probably about the time Thomas Edison invented the light-bulb (or so it feels, sometimes), I HAD to "go to church". By that time, I had become a PK, or Preacher's Kid, so it was expected that of course, the preacher's kids would attend his church.

And so I did, in good faith, since I was mostly an obedient kid who had learned to see things as my parents did. I was not the rebellious type, and in addition, I greatly admired my dad and recognized his great wisdom and his seemingly endless capabilities which he had learned from his contractor father and then at Cal Berkeley in engineering (Berkeley and Cal were still sane at that time). How many preachers or pastors do you know that could design bridges and buildings and water flows, do blueprints, and repair almost anything around the house and even around the store?

As far back as I can remember, I was uneasy in church. I disliked the dress-up, but other than that, I didn't know why I didn't like going to church, so I questioned myself and my faith, thinking I was bad. Later, when I went to Westmont College, a fundamentalist (modern term: "evangelical") Christian college, I felt the same uneasiness. I never really fit in, yet I still tried to listen to God and find out what He wanted me to do.

My dad didn't fit in either, since as you can tell, he became a storekeeper, at God's direction. Both of us struggled individually with the church thing, wanting to do what God wanted but seemingly unable to be at peace in a church. My dad's example of sincerely seeking to know what and where God wanted him spoke much louder to me personally than anything else. He obviously knew the Spirit of God and set the example of seeking His will and trying to do it, no matter where it might lead.

I hung in there, too, but could not find God's peace until my fourth year at Westmont, when I quit holding out on God, hoping to follow my own career or family choices. God wouldn't let go of me (thank You, Father!), and so at the end of the school year, when graduating seniors were given a week in daily chapel to speak to the student body, I applied for a speaking spot and received the go ahead.

I said that I was going to join God's group of followers in Reche Canyon, where we were running a little store called the Hitchin Post. We had taken up that mission in obedience to God, to serve people in His name and Spirit. One of our greatest joys was that it didn't appear "religious" or "holy", but was just a down-to-earth service to people at their level. No longer were we captives of what we came to call "churchianity."

I pointed out how even this college, whose motto was "Christus Primatum Tenens" (Holding Christ Preeminent), did not teach the students to find out what God wanted of each one of us, and to prepare ourselves for that calling, but rather taught us to become successful, with God blessing us in our chosen endeavors. That's a big difference! My professor/advisor was upset at me, because as he saw it, I was going to go rot in Reche Canyon! Aren't we supposed to obey God's leading rather than to drag Him along as we do what WE choose to do?

My discomfort at being called "Christian" remained and does so to this day. I'd look around me to see the many various people who called themselves Christian, but were they? What did that mean? How did they live any differently from anyone else? And then there were entire nations named as "Christian" – the U.S., most of Europe, etc. How possibly were entire nations "Christian", or any other religion? What did it mean to call the USA a Christian nation? Even as far back as the 70s we could see the approach of the moral and spiritual cliff in front of us now? What did it mean to call the Crusaders (1096-1291) Christians? They pillaged and

murdered their way to the Holy Land in the name of Christ! That's Christian?

In the last few years, Sir William and the others of us in our little group of Followers started using the term Believers for those who referenced God and Jesus the Christ in their lives. It seemed to be an improvement over the now meaningless term "Christian". It actually meant something more than just the nod of the head to the religion passed on to us in our culture, our schools, our parents, our churches. But again, I became uneasy with that term, also. It seemed we just used that label in a

general sense without knowing how sincere a person's belief is or whether his/her life had been changed and redirected to total obedience to God's will.

I mentioned that dilemma to a fellow staffer at the store, and we came up with the term "Follower", to distinguish between those who just say they believe and those who follow up with God, repent (turn around), and actually turn their lives around.

That was such a relief to me! I do not have to bear the corrupted term "Christian", which applies even to mainstream churches in this country that actually embrace abominations to God like LGBTQ and abortion. I don't wish to call myself "Believer", either, since many, many people say it but do nothing about it. I am a Follower, one who in my wholly inadequate and broken way try to serve God, as I know Him in Jesus the Christ, by the Holy Spirit, wherever that may lead and whatever He would have me do. That conviction applies to the others of our little band who serve God together.

That's exciting and freeing! I'm not beholden to any church doctrines -- look how many different ones there are! I'm not using a watered-down label for myself. I'm not even troubled by the many differing interpretations of the Bible, since we live by God's Holy Spirit moment by moment, day by day, not rejecting the Bible, but reading and applying it through the eyes of God's Spirit!

Hopefully that means that I am a FOLLOWER of God!

As this world goes nutser and nutser, darkening every day, descending deeper and deeper into gross immorality, and distorting and obliterating God's Truth, Reality, and Natural Laws, it might be a good time to decide:

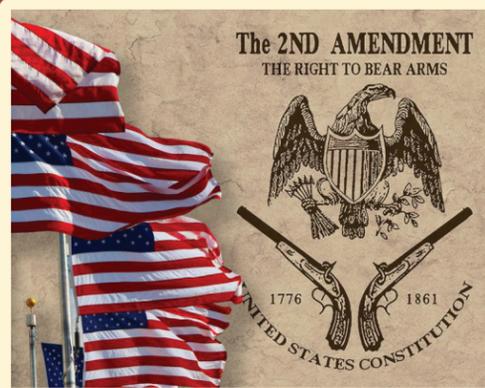
## WHICH ONE ARE YOU – "Christian", "Believer", or FOLLOWER?

Or do you want to go over the falls to your death, with most of the rest of humanity?

**Romans 1:16-32**  
**2 Peter 5b-22**  
**2 Timothy 3:1-17**  
**2 Corinthians 15:35-58**  
**Jude (vs) 17-25**



*Linda Gammel*



This was sent by Roger Peterson, who requested we put it in the ad space. Roger is a patriot of patriots, which is NOT a terrorist or enemy of the state. As should we all, Roger sticks to the Constitution and to God's Truth, rather than accept the lies and deceptions of the Ruling Class and the world. -- LG

## THE SECOND PRESS

Today, December 14th, 2022, President Biden has announced that all Americans should have a sense of "Societal Guilt" for failing to infringe on the 2nd Amendment in the face of unspeakable tragedy. The actions in the incidents of which he is basing this accusation, Sandy Hook, Uvalde, and other tragedies from our Nation are just that, tragedies. They are tragedies perpetrated by mentally deficient criminals who have chosen the path of hatred and evil rather than good. The fault is neither in the tool that they have chosen to use to perpetrate their atrocities, nor the American people whose Rights they abused.

On the same day of Biden's declaration, we the people are here to say the following statement on behalf of ALL gun owners in this incredible Nation: Mr. President, we do not accept your concept of "Societal Guilt" of which you are attempting to lay at the feet of hundreds of millions of Americans who have done nothing wrong. The guilt of criminals is only held to the perpetrator of the crime. If you need somewhere to lay the blame, the answer is simple, the murderer. In no uncertain terms, we do not accept your accusation, we wholly reject it. We the people will not be guilted into the revocation or suspension of our Rights due to the actions of criminals, murderers, and the lowest criminal elements of our Nation.

While we the people are stalwart in our defense of our 2nd Amendment, we also recognize there is clearly an issue within our Nation. We are ready to work with all Americans in order to fix the issues of the heart and mind that we as a people have allowed to decay in our Nation through blind faith in politicians. The guide rails for a solution are the Rights that are protected within the Bill of Rights. The answer is not in abusing our due process Rights through red flag laws, nor in banning our 2nd Amendment Rights through bans and limits. All of which will only lead to the discrimination and penalties on Americans Rights while the criminals ignore the law and our situation gets worse. We the people are ready to fix our problems, we do not need demagoguery, accusation nor division.

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## On The Lighter Side . . . from the Web

