

The Life of God in the Lives of People

John 1:1-18

Essential Qualities

What is an essential quality of being...

a Michigander? a visiting scholar? a Spartan? a human?

Is it possible to be a human and not act like it?

Is it possible to act like a human and not be a human?

What is **the** essential quality of being a Christian?

Is it possible to be a Christian and not act like it?

Is it possible to act like a Christian and not be a Christian?



John 1:1-18

1-5:

The Word is Jesus Christ, the Son of God

The Word is in perfect fellowship with the Father

The Word is God just as the Father is God

6-8:

God sent a human witness (John) to point to the Son of God in human form

God continues to send human witnesses “that all might believe”

9-13:

The Word entered the world to bring God’s life

14:

The Son has always been and always will be God

The Son became a human being

He brought God’s glory, grace, and truth into the world

15:

John was a witness that Jesus is the Son of God

16-18:

The Word makes God the Father known and experienced

His glory, grace, and truth

Most clearly seen in the cross

Again: 9-13:

The Son of God was rejected by people, including His own

The Word puts the Life of God into those who believe

The Big Idea

Having true Life and Glory

is by God giving Life [God’s view]

as we receive/believe in Jesus Christ [our view]

What makes someone a Christian is not a particular belief or action (“human decision”)

Rather it is Life given by God (“born of God”) which He gives to all who receive Jesus Christ

Every human faces the impossible journey of death and judgment

Jesus Christ gives God’s life to all who receive Him – the glorious Life full of grace and truth – that death cannot end

So many people don't recognize or receive this gift from God
To those who do, He gives the unending and glorious life of God

Action Steps

Find new life in Jesus, the Son of God

Being born of God
so we have His glorious life
full of grace and truth

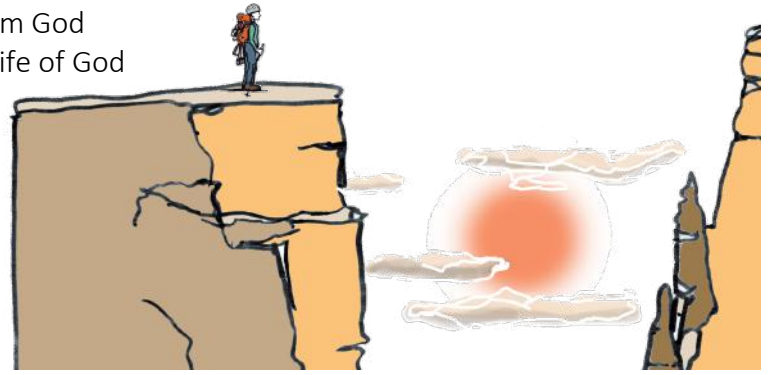
By trusting in and receiving Jesus Christ...
as the Son of God
who died for our sins
so we can live

Have you?

If not, is there a reason not to?

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:16

Baptism is a wonderful celebration of this new life
This spring and summer



Point to the Light/Life in the Son of God

God sends people to point to Jesus
We invite people to find and follow Jesus
That all might believe

Live in the glorious life that God gives

Tragically, genuine Christians can live as if God has not given new life!
If God gives us wings, why do we spend so much time walking?

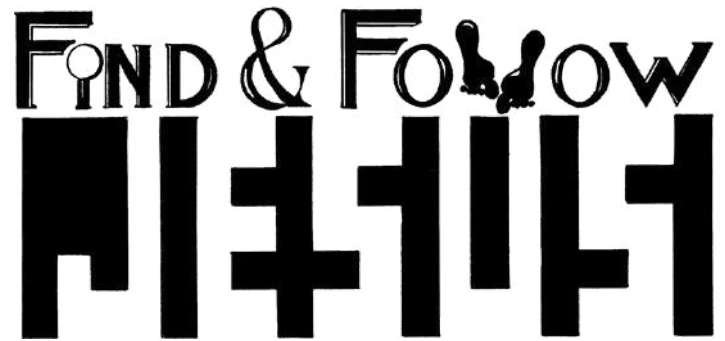
"After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?" Galatians 3:3

The Essential Quality of being a Christian...

is having received life from God in Jesus

Find and Follow Jesus

Having New Life from God
Growing in relationship with Christ
Growing into godliness
Living on Christ's mission



Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What is the essence of being a Christian? Is that true of you? If not, is there sometime stopping you from trusting in Jesus as the Son of God who died for our sins so we can live?
2. Romans 8:16 says "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." If you have trusted in Jesus, what does this work of the Spirit look like in your life?
3. Have you been baptized? If not, would you consider it? Please reach out to Pastor John or another elder.
4. How are you a part of pointing people to Life in the Son of God? What steps might you take?
5. What might it mean to live "by means of the flesh" even when the Spirit of God lives in us? What changes would be needed?

Conversation starter

In your view, what is the essence of being a Christian?