

## IN TOUCH

### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Dear Friend:

Lately in my devotions I have been reading from the book of 2 Kings. One of the things that really strikes me is how the Jewish people spiritually had a split loyalty. They worshipped God but they also adopted idols as their gods too. They wanted it both ways – be a follower of God AND a follower of the idols around them. Ironically when the Assyrians invaded and captured the Jews, they did the same thing. They kept their idols and began worshipping God. This is called syncretism, and spiritual syncretism is mixing two or more religions together. Needless to say, this violates the first and second commandment. Unfortunately, spiritual syncretism is all around us today. People say they are a Christian, but they continue to hold on to their ways before Christ.

What does it mean to be a Christian? It means Galatians 2:20, “...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” The breaking and collapse of my independence from God and the absolute surrendering of my life to the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. No one can do this for me, I must do it for myself. Has that breaking of your independence come? All the rest is religious fraud. The one point is this: will you give up? Will you surrender to Jesus Christ, placing no conditions whatsoever on how surrender will come?

Again, what does it mean to be a Christian? It is not just a matter of asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins. It is not just a matter of “asking him into your heart.” No, no, no...confession of all past sins is necessary but the sincerity of that prayer is proved by a surrendered life to Jesus Christ and the breaking and collapse of one's independence. Will you allow Him to help Himself to your life - completely?

In Christ's Love.

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Helen Martindale, Dick Hickernell, Mark Hutsko & Family (COVID), Eric & Sharon McKinney (COVID), Betty McCombs, Our Country