(Understanding the True Meaning of Following Christ)

To understand Christianity, we must first consider the linguistic and conceptual root of the term itself.

1. Understanding “Nationality” Helps Explain “Christianity”

The word nationality originates from the noun nation. Any behavior, belief, or action that shows devotion to or alignment with a nation is called nationalism. Similarly, the word Christianity is derived from the noun Christ — so Christianity involves devotion to Christ.

But what does Christ mean?

2. The Meaning of “Christ”

The term Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word Messiah (Mashiach), meaning “the Anointed One.” It was commonly used in the Old Testament to refer to individuals whom God anointed for specific roles — such as kings, priests, and prophets. These individuals were anointed with oil as a sign that

they were chosen and empowered by God.

For instance:

David was referred to as the LORD’s anointed:

> Do not lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed...
>
> 1 Samuel 24:6, NKJV

Saul, too, was called the LORD’s anointed (the Hebrew is mashiach, the root of Messiah).

This indicates that the title messiah (or christos in Greek) was not exclusive to Jesus. Many were anointed by God in the Old Testament. But their roles were temporary and partial, pointing forward to the One who would be anointed above all — the promised Redeemer.

3. Jesus: The Ultimate and Unique Christ

When Jesus of Nazareth appeared, He was not just another anointed person — He was the Christ, the Messiah, the One prophesied throughout the Old Testament. His anointing was not symbolic or ceremonial; it was spiritual and divine.

> The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor...

— Luke 4:18, NKJV (Jesus quoting Isaiah 61:1)

Unlike others, Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit Himself, not merely with oil.

> God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil...
>
> Acts 10:38, NKJV

God Himself declared the Sonship and Kingship of Jesus:

> You are My Son, today I have begotten You.
>
> Psalm 2:7, NKJV

> I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.
>
> Psalm 2:6, NKJV

Therefore, while there were many christs (anointed ones), there is only one true and supreme Christ — Jesus the Messiah.

> For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

> 1 Timothy 2:5, NKJV

That’s why the Bible uses a capital “C” when referring to Christ Jesus, to distinguish Him from all others.

4. So, What Is Christianity?

Christianity is not just a religion or a label. It is the lifestyle and commitment of a person who has chosen to follow, love, and live in obedience to Christ Jesus — the unique and divine Son of God.

It is not simply about being religious; it is about being in Christ:

> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV

It is about placing your faith in Jesus the Christ — not just a

prophet, teacher, or miracle-worker, but God in the flesh (John 1:1,14), the Savior of the world:

> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
>
> Acts 4:12, NKJV

It is about loving and obeying Him:

> If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.
>
> John 14:23, NKJV

And it is also about daily transformation through His Spirit:

> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...
>
> Romans 12:2, NKJV

Final Clarification: Why Emphasize “Christ Jesus” and Not Just “Jesus” or “Christ”?

There were many named Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew) in ancient times, and several people referred to as christs (anointed ones). But there is only one who bears both the name and title divinely — Christ Jesus.

> Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
>
> John 20:31, NKJV

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