

Christianity, Is it Cultural, Evangelical, National, Red Letter or Progressive? Student Copy

(Although my statements are included in this document, not all of this information originates with me, some of this material is a compilation of which is adapted from a JULY 8, 2022, article BY PAUL LOUIS METZGER, and other sources of information which I have add at the end of this document)

Introduction:

I begin this lesson tonight with a word of caution. We must be careful when we make the decision to use as a church curriculum the words and ideologies in the books of some self-proclaimed Christian authors in place of the Word of God, even if they claim to be Christian.

My personal issue is, those works tend to cater to the individuals felt needs (which to a point is OK), but has the tendency to foster a self-centeredness. It promotes the Bible as being a self-help resource and not as an introduction to God, who He is, and what He has done in salvific history.

So, before we proceed, I remind us of the fact that we are going through some stuff, and it is in accordance with *Romans 8:29 (NET 2nd ed.) "because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."*

Be wary of any book that claims you can be somewhat of a *"superhuman Christian."* I embark on this lesson with the intention of adding credence as to not only what, and why we worship, but more importantly Who we worship!

It is sad that Christianity is now known by so many different labels, Evangelical, Christian National, Red Letter or Progressive etc. The issue is, note, how far have they drifted from what we find mentioned several times in the Book of Acts.

"What is biblical Christianity?"

Biblical Christianity (and the emphasis is on biblical), relies on the Bible to understand true faith.

Cultural Christianity produces nominal believers who label themselves as Christians but who allow culture to define their convictions.

Biblical Christianity adheres to the fundamentals of the Christian faith, as found in the Bible:

- 1) The Triunity of God: the one God exists eternally in three Persons.
- 2) Jesus Christ is fully man and fully God. His death was the substitutionary sacrifice for sinners, and He rose again bodily.
- 3) Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- 4) The sixty-six books of the Bible are God's Word, inspired, inerrant, and sufficient for living a godly life.

5) Jesus Christ is coming again to judge sin and rule the world.

Any departure from these points represents a departure from biblical Christianity.

Incidentally, in the back of the New Baptist National Hymnal we have what is known as the Articles of the Faith which describes what we believe. You can also find them at <https://www.nationalbaptist.com/about-nbc/what-we-believe> .

A true Christian has received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (**John 1:12**). He believes that Christ has paid the penalty for his sin (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). He trusts in Jesus' resurrection. Jesus said that anyone who wishes to become His disciple must **"deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me"** (**Luke 9:23**).

Here is the challenge to all believers in Christ Jesus: Know What You Believe, then Know Why You Believe It!