

## *What Does it Mean to Be a Christian? Part 1*

### **Introduction:**

1. Not even Christians know what it means...

- \_\_\_\_\_% of Americans call themselves Christians
- Yet, \_\_\_\_\_% of them believe that they will get to heaven because they are good people
- Do you see a contradiction?

2. Being a Christian begins with a recognition that we are not \_\_\_\_\_ people and will never get to heaven because of our own goodness.

*...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

(Romans 3:23)

### **We are not Good people**

A. The world is full of \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Genesis 1 & 2—God created the world \_\_\_\_\_

a. We were created for 3 purposes:

...love \_\_\_\_\_

...love each \_\_\_\_\_

...care for God's \_\_\_\_\_

b. We have blown our responsibility to each one

2. Genesis 3—We choose to \_\_\_\_\_ against God

a. What does the fruit represent?

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of good and evil.
- We are no longer content being obedient children, we want to be our own \_\_\_\_\_.
- Unfortunately, we are a part of the created order and are unable to \_\_\_\_\_ above it.
- This is not a simple little fairy tale about a silly piece of fruit... this is a philosophical and theological argument about why we have destroyed the world which accurately reflects the \_\_\_\_\_ in this world.

b. Make a list of sins:

- What is common about all sin: \_\_\_\_\_
- Every sin is \_\_\_\_\_, everything \_\_\_\_\_ is sin
- Sin has to do with our desire to have our own way at the \_\_\_\_\_ of another  
How do you act selfishly daily? (Romans 3:23)

B. Broken relationships

1. Sin leads to broken relationships with \_\_\_\_\_, others, and with creation.

*What happens to our relationships with others when we act in our own self-interest, without regard for others?*

2. The only person who can heal broken relationships is the one who has been \_\_\_\_\_

- This is a basic principle of \_\_\_\_\_
- Once a relationship is broken, the power of the relationship falls to the one who has been hurt

3. When we sin, we not only hurt people and creation, we break our relationship with God. Why?

- We are hurting another one of God's \_\_\_\_\_ or something for which God cares
- An eye for an eye not only leaves both blind, but also hurts God \_\_\_\_\_
- Only God can restore our broken relationship: remember, it is the one who has been hurt who has the power to restore a broken relationship.

**Next Week:** How does God restore a broken relationship?