

A 'CHRISTIAN' COMPARISON CHART

NOMINAL 'CHRISTIAN'	'BORN AGAIN' CHRISTIAN
These are the 'Christians' that non-Christians look at and say, "They are no different from me". And they are entirely correct. This is where most of us are; claiming the Name of Christ, but holding back from the Full Surrender that would make all the difference!	They are an entirely New Creation. They have truly died to self and the world and have been 'born again' into an entirely new life. This is something only God can bring about through the Blood of the Lamb and the work of the Holy Spirit. However He only does it for those who seek it with all their heart.
They enjoy the same things as the rest of the world, but like, if possible to attach some 'Christian' terms to it so as to feel better about it. Any suggestion that certain amusements are unbecoming to Christians will quickly bring forth loud cries of 'Pharisee' or 'Legalist'.	They are totally changed. The worldly things that they once loved, they now hate and the things they once hated, they now love. They honestly have no interest in their former worldly entertainments. They find real pleasure in practical work and godly study.
They will go to Bible Study but mostly when there is going to be a lunch served. They will sing hymns—but only if they have a lively beat, where they can sway and clap. Loud music is an asset.	They love Bible study and reading and singing the old fashioned hymns. They love to ponder the words and deeper meaning of the old hymns of Faith. Loud music is shunned.
The official church or group is all-important. He takes personal pride in the accomplishments of the organization and rejoices when 'His Church' gets acclaim. When not in the 'church' environment, spiritual things are seldom referred to.	Christ is first, best and everything to him. He talks about Jesus wherever he goes. It is as natural for Him to think and speak of spiritual things as for water to flow down hill. He follows the denomination only as far as it follows Christ.
He delights to admire those he considers 'godly' men. The better educated and the more important their position in the hierarchy the more he dotes on their every word.	Although he respects truly 'spiritual' people, he lives not by the words of men, but by the Word of God. Scripture texts take on new beauty every time he hears them. He never tires of the 'Living Word'.
Like the world, he seeks any excuse for a 'party', however he will make it for a 'worthy cause', thus he can throw himself into amusement and folly and still feel 'holy' about it.	Partying and gatherings for amusement hold no interest for him at all. He delights rather to find ways of doing some real good in the world. He will gladly spend and be spent to further the cause of the Lord.
Loves to belong to groups and finds himself uneasy and bored if he has to be much alone. Would rather spend time chatting with friends than in solitary prayer.	Finds real solace and comfort in spending much time alone with the Bible and in prayer. Enjoys quiet companionship but is not uneasy when alone. Is never bored.
Thinks that people ought to be forced to attend 'church' and keep certain rules. Longs to be able to 'make people' agree with him. Feels the majority ought to rule and dissenters should be 'dealt with'.	Knows that God only accepts the service of free will and although he will seek to warn and teach the truth to all who will listen, he will never use bribery, force or manipulation to persuade anyone.
Really enjoys gossiping and pointing out the sins of others. This helps him to feel more secure that he is 'good' in comparison with those he calls 'bad'.	Has no interest in gossip and often speaks of his own unworthiness and how much his Savior has done for him. He is too busy seeking to be like Jesus to dwell on other's failings.
Bases his beliefs on what important leaders say. He must fit in with the group and be accepted.	Bases his beliefs on the Bible alone, even if it makes him an outcast or unpopular. He will stand alone if need be.

Christian Comparison Chart

Often likes to talk of some 'great work' or 'ministry' he is going to have when he gets the financial backing.	Takes hold of whatever task lies at hand and goes ahead by faith to do what he can.
Is easily offended and often resentful of others, especially if someone gets an honor he wanted for himself.	Is mostly too busy to notice the slights of others, and if he does, it is to pray for them and go on his way.
Appears very godly when amongst church-members or in front of the pastor, but at home can be harsh and bad tempered.	His character is stable and the same in all surroundings. He is a courteous to his family as to those the world calls 'important'.
Rejoices and praising the Lord when all is well and others are supportive, but quickly falls to pieces or 'looses faith' when faced with adversity.	Is cheerfully and quietly the same in fair weather or foul, in good times or trial.
Gets a spiritual high when with the group and experiencing much hype and excitement but once alone again soon falls into depression.	Recharges his spiritual batteries in prayer and feasting on God's Word. Clings to the promises when clouds gather.
Thrives on flattery and the support of friends. Even kindly advice is usually resented.	Is not lifted up by praise nor cast down by criticism.
Feels assured of salvation because of his church, and because he is as good, or better than others around him. Feels that once he has joined the church, this is all he needs.	Knows that the only hope he has is in clinging to Jesus and claiming His merits. Knows that he has hope only in daily dying to self and having Christ live in him by the Holy Spirit.
Loves and excuses sin because he can't overcome it.	Hates sin as Jesus hates it and overcomes through faith in Christ.
Will hide or give up his 'beliefs' to fit in with his friends.	Will give up his 'friends' rather than compromise his faith.
Relies on the pastor for all religious counsel.	Seeks the Lord and His Word for religious counsel.
Loves sermons that excuse sin and assure him of God's unconditional love.	Loves sermons that reprove sin and challenge him to be more like his Lord.
Changeable, fickle and moody	Faithful and consistent.
Measures his faith by feeling.	Ignores feeling and stands on God's promises.
If he has power to do so will freely persecute those who differ from him.	If he has power, will use it faithfully to help others.
When times are good he will sneer at the true Christian and call him a fanatic. When times are bad, he falls to pieces.	When times are good, prays for the nominal, in spite of the name-calling. When times are bad will reach out a hand to try to lift the nominal and show him the way to be 'born again'.
Unless he makes the full surrender and is born again, will finally be lost.	Unless he turns back and becomes a 'Nominal Christian', will finally be saved.