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1-800-611-8080 / [www.cgom.org](http://www.cgom.org)  
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

## Where Are the True Christians?

How can you identify a believer in Christ?

by Bill Faith

A recent article posted December 3, 2003 on *World Net Daily* titled, "Church doesn't think like Jesus" stated that, "A new survey by pollster George Barna finds only 9 percent of born-again Christians hold a biblical worldview."

What is a biblical worldview? The article explains, "For the purpose of the research, a biblical worldview was defined as believing that absolute moral truths exist; that such truth is defined by the Bible; and firm belief in six specific religious views.

*Those views were:*

- Jesus Christ lived a sinless life
- God is the all powerful and all knowing Creator of the universe and He still rules it today
- salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned
- Satan is real
- a Christian has a responsibility to share their faith with other people
- the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.

It would seem that most professing Christians could accept these biblical worldviews. Yet, only an astonishing nine percent believed them.

Mr. Barna surveyed 2,033 adults also found that only four percent of those not claiming to be Christian have a biblical worldview. And so he rightly suggests that many of the nation's moral and spiritual challenges are directly attributed to this fact.

It is hard to believe that a nation that is considered to be Christian would have so few people with these views. Pollster George Barna mentioned, "If Jesus Christ came to this planet as a model of how we ought

to live, then our goal should be to act like Jesus."

How true that statement is. For in I John 2:6 we read, "He who says he abides in Him [that is, in Christ] ought himself also to walk just as He walked." As Christians, it is our duty to forsake the ways of the world and follow righteousness.

"Sadly," Mr. Barna writes, "Few people consistently demonstrate the love, obedience and priorities of Jesus." He continues:

"The primary reason that people do not act like Jesus is because they do not think like Jesus. Behavior stems from what we think - our attitudes, beliefs, values and opinions. Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life."

The Apostle Paul addressed this very concern in Romans 8:5,7 where he wrote, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.....Because the carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

The problem is that many who consider themselves Christian have never truly been converted. If they had been, then they would be as it is written in II Corinthians 5:17-18 where we are told "If anyone is

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in Christ, he is a *new creation*; *old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God...*” The Apostle Paul also wrote, “*If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God*” (Romans 8:13-14).

“*If we are led by the Spirit of God we will not allow sin to reign any longer in our mortal bodies nor obey it in its lusts. Rather, we will present ourselves as instruments of righteousness*” (Romans 6:12-13). If we act and think like Jesus we need to have the mind of Christ. The Apostle Paul tells us that truly converted Christians do have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16, Philippians 2:5).

All Christians believe they are under the New Covenant. However, the Bible teaches us that if we are under the New Covenant we will have God’s laws in our mind and written on our heart (Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:10). In other words, our life will be governed by God’s laws. This understanding is fortified by Mr. Barna’s research:

“Upon comparing the perspectives of those who have a biblical worldview with those who do not, the former group were thirty-one times less likely to accept *cohabitation*, eighteen times less likely to endorse *drunkenness*, fifteen times less likely to condone *homosexuality*, twelve times less likely to accept *profanity* and eleven times less likely to describe *adultery* as morally acceptable. In addition, fewer than half of one percent of those with a biblical worldview said voluntary exposure to pornography was morally acceptable (compared to 39% of other adults), and a similarly miniscule proportion endorsed abortion (compared to 46% of adults who lack a biblical worldview).”

These figures certainly reveal that if Christians practiced what the Bible teaches the world would surely be a better place in which to live.

It’s a shame that so many professing Christians evidently do not accept the Bible as absolute truth. Yet we are instructed: “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*” (II Timothy 3:16-17).

As Christians we need to walk worthy of our calling. We need to put complete trust in God and allow His word to be a lamp to our feet.

Perhaps then we can begin to think and act like Jesus.

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