

- That Linked The West To The Land-Routes Of The East As Well As The South!
 - Located In Modern Day Turkey: *
 - The City (Antakya) Today Is About Half Of Its Ancient Size:
 - Around 250,000 - But Has Forgotten:
 - Much Of Its Ancient History!
 - There Are Hardly Any Ruins Of Ancient Antioch In Existence Today!
 - Because Most Of The Modern City:
 - Was Build On The Old!
 - But - There Is One Main Exception, And That Is The “Church Of St. Peter” - * - Which Is Located Outside Of The City - And Is One Of The Oldest Surviving Churches In The World - Surviving Because It Was Formed From A Cave In The Side Of A Mountain! *
4. But - As The Gospel Spread Throughout The City Of Antioch:
- God Richly Blessed The Pioneer Missionary Work:
 - Of Those Believers - Because We Read In:
 - 11:21 - “And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord!”
 - And This Was Done:
 - Completely Independent From:
 - The Church & Predominately Jewish Congregation:
 - In Jerusalem! So:
 - 11:22 - “Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch!”
5. Once Again - Barnabas:
- Comes On The Scene!
 - He Was Also From Cyprus:
 - And Likely Knew Some Of The Believers:
 - Who Traveled To Antioch As Missionaries! So - He Was A Trustworthy Ambassador - To Confirm & To Guide The New Work In That City!
 - And What Did He Find:
 - When He Arrived In Antioch?
 - 11:23-24 - Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. / For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord!”
6. What Was Taking Place In Antioch:
- Was A “Great Spiritual Awakening” - Which Luke Describes As:
 - The “Grace Of God!”
 - And So - Barnabas Decides To Stay And Help Establish The Newly Formed Church There!
 - But - The Work Seems To Have Been Too Much For Him To Do Alone!
 - And So - In The Providence Of God - He Remembers The Man He Befriended Back In Jerusalem!
 - A Man Named Saul!
 - And So - In 11:25 - “Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus – About 90 Miles Away – for to seek Saul: / And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!”
 - A Few Years Earlier - Saul Had Been Sent Home To Tarsus:
 - For His Own Safety:
 - But When Barnabas Went To Look For Him There:
 - It Does Not Seem To Have Been An Easy Task!
 - The Words “Seek” & “Found” Here:
 - Imply That It Took Some Effort On The Part Of Barnabas To Locate Saul!
 - And You Have To Wonder - Why?
 - Where Was Saul?
 - What Was Saul Doing?
 - In All Likelihood, Saul:
 - Was Already Sharing The Gospel:
 - To The Jews & Gentiles:

- In His Own "Neck Of The Woods!"
- In Galatians 1:21 - Paul Explains What Happened After He Left Jerusalem - "I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia!"
 - But Now - It Was Time For Him To Join God's Work In The Great City Of Antioch!
 - And It Was There - In That City & Through That Church:
 - That God Would Send Forth The Greatest Pioneer Missionary For Christ This World Has Ever Known - The Apostle Paul!
- 7. But - There Were Still Struggles:
 - That Those Early Christians & Churches Faced!
 - Not Just From Persecution:
 - But Even Through Every-Day Perils & Problems:
 - Like The One Mentioned In:
 - 11:27-30 - "And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. / And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. / Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: / Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul!"
 - Already - We Can See How God Was Using:
 - That Newly Formed Church:
 - In Antioch:
 - To Expand The Reach Of The Gospel All Throughout The World!
 - 8. But I Want To Call Your Attention:
 - Back To 11:25 - Where We Read:
 - "And The Disciples Were Called Christians First In Antioch!"
 - "Christians!"
 - This Is A Name & A Description That We Have Become So Accustomed To!
 - Yet - Christians Were Not Always Called Christians!
 - Up Until This Time:
 - The Jews Described:
 - The Church As:
 - The "Way!"
 - And Believers Described:
 - Themselves As:
 - Disciples And Brethren!
 - But In Antioch:
 - The Gentile & Roman Population There:
 - Really Didn't Know What To Make Of:
 - This New Religious Group!
 - But - What They *Did* Know:
 - Was That They Used That Term - "Christ" - An Awful Lot!
 - And So - Without Even Knowing:
 - All The Teachings & Beliefs Of Those Christians:
 - As G. Campbell Morgan Once Wrote - They - "Named These People By What Antioch Saw In Them! They Were the People Of The Christ, Whomsoever He Might Have Been! It Was Of The Christ They Spoke, Of The Christ They Sang, For The Christ They Lived!"
 - And So - "Christians" They Became!
 - And - "Christians" We Remain!
 - 9. But What Was It That:
 - The People Of Antioch:
 - Saw In Our Brothers & Sisters In Christ:
 - That Caused Them To Coin This New & Distinctive Term For Us?
 - I Believe The Answer:
 - To This Question:
 - Can Be Found In The Text We Just Read!
 - And To This Day - It Is An Apt Definition & Description Of What A True Christian Is!
 - So - Just What Is A Christian?

* First - A Christian Is One Who's:

1. ***Faith Is In Christ!***

- See This Back In 11:21 - Because When The Gospel Reached Antioch - What Happened?
 - “And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed!”
 - They Believed In The Gospel!
 - They Believed In Christ!
- This Is First & Foremost:
 - What It Means To Be A Christian!
 - You Believe In - As We Looked At This Morning:
 - The Truth Claims Of Jesus!
 - That He Is The Anointed One Of God - The One Chosen As God The Father’s Final Prophet, Perfect Priest, And Glorious King!
 - You Believe That He Alone:
 - Can Save You & Deliver You:
 - From Your Sin!
 - And That He Can Do So Because He Is Lord Of All!
- How Would People Describe:
 - Your Faith?
 - Is It The Faith Of A True Christian?

* Second - A Christian Is One Who’s:

2. ***Focus Is On Christ!***

- See This Also In 11:21 - Because After They “Believed” - It Then States That They Also:
 - “Turned To The Lord!”
 - This Shows Us That There Was A:
 - Great Change & Transformation In Their Lives!
 - It Was Drastic & It Was Noticeable!
- Before They Believed In This Christ:
 - They Were Just Like The Rest Of The People:
 - In Antioch!
 - Living For Themselves & For All The Prosperity & Pleasure This Life Has To Offer!
- But - After They Believed In Christ:
 - They Were Different!
 - They “Turned” To This Christ:
 - As Their Lord & Master!
 - They Sought To Live Their Lives In Service To Him!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 Was True:
 - About Them Too - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
- How Would People Describe:
 - Your Focus?
 - Is It The Focus Of A True Christian?
 - Is It Turned To Christ As The Lord & Master Of Your Life?

* Third - A Christian Is One Who’s:

3. ***Faithfulness Is To Christ!***

- See This In 11:23 - When - After Barnabas:
 - “Came – To Antioch – And had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord!”
 - To “Cleave” Here Means To:
 - Continue With & Remain Faithful To The Lord!
 - And To Do So:
 - With “Purpose Of Heart!”
 - That This Is Your Highest Goal In Life!
- As The Chorus Goes:
 - “I Want To Be Faithful, I Want To Be True, I Want To Be Faithful In All That I Do!”
 - And The People Of Antioch Noticed This New Desire In Their Old Friends & Neighbors & Coworkers!
- It Wasn’t Just A Change In Their Conduct:

- It Was A Change In Their Character!
 - And In Their Very Heart & Purpose For Living!
 - And The Only Thing They Could Point To For This Change Was That “Christ” They Kept Talking About!
- Because For Them - As It Was For Paul:
 - In Philippians 1:21 - “For Me To Live Was Christ!”
- How Would People Describe:
 - Your Faithfulness?
 - Is It The Faithfulness Of A True Christian?
 - Is Your Desire & Goal In Life To “Cleave” To & To Please Christ?

* Fourth - A Christian Is One Who’s:

4. ***Fellowship Is In Christ!***

- See This In 11:26 - When - After Barnabas Returned To Antioch With Saul:
 - “That a whole year they assembled themselves with the church!”
 - For The Entire Church There In Antioch:
 - They Did Not “Forsake The Assembling Of Themselves Together!”
 - They Knew That The Only Way They Could Grow In The Grace & Knowledge Of The Lord:
 - Was To Do So Together!
 - They Would Have Assembled Together:
 - For All Of The Reasons Given:
 - Back In 2:42 - When - “They continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers!”
 - And - Once Again - The People Of Antioch:
 - Would Have Noticed A Difference:
 - In These “Christ-Worshippers!”
 - When The Sabbath Day Came Around:
 - Each Week - Eventually Becoming:
 - The “Lord’s Day” - They Didn’t Do What Everyone Else In The City Did! They Didn’t Go Where Everyone Else In The City Went!
 - I’m Not Sure They Had All The Same Forms Of Recreation & Entertainment That We Have Available For Us Today:
 - But - Those Church Members Forsook Those Old “Past-Times” In Order To Be With Each Other & With Their Christ!
 - How Would People Describe:
 - Your Fellowship?
 - Is It The Fellowship Of A True Christian?
 - Do You Look Forward To Getting Together With Each Other For Worship & Prayer & Instruction & Service?
 - And As We Read:
 - Toward The End Of The Chapter:
 - Their Desire For Fellowship Extended Beyond Their Own Local Body Of Believers!
 - In 11:29 - “Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea!”

Conclusion:

1. When The People Of Antioch:
 - Saw The Kind Of:
 - Faith & Focus & Faithfulness & Fellowship:
 - Of The People Of This New & Unusual Religion:
 - They Noticed That It All Centered On:
 - A Person Called Christ!
 - And So - That Is Why:
 - 11:26 - “The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!”
 - What Else Could They Call Them?
2. But - I Wonder:
 - If There Was Not Yet A Name:

- For Us - What Would The World:
 - Call Us Today? How Would The World:
 - Describe You?
 - And Your Relationship With Christ?
- 3. Would It Be “Christian”?
 - There Really Is No Better Name:
 - For Us To Be Known By:
 - Than This - Is There?
 - May We Too:
 - Like The Christians In Antioch:
 - Be Named By What People See In Us!
 - May We Be:
 - “The People Of The Christ!”
 - May It Be:
 - “Of The Christ [We] Speak, Of The Christ [We] Sing, [And] Of The Christ [We] Live!”
- 4. May We Live Up To:
 - The Honor Of That Special Name:
 - “Christian!”

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