

## *May We “Self-Identify” As A Christian?*

In the past few months, our society has discussed the question “Is someone really a woman just because they say they are a woman?”. Clearly not. Likewise, is someone a Christian just because they say they are? How can we know?

Man is not a Christian simply because he says he is. To be a Christian, a person must belong to Christ and to belong to Christ, a person must have their sins forgiven (1 Jn. 3:5). Sins are forgiven only by Jesus’ blood (Rev. 1:5; Mt. 26:28).

When does His blood cleanse us? Not before faith (Heb. 11:6), not before repentance (Acts 17:30), not before verbal confession (Rom. 10:10), and not before being *baptized into Christ* (Rom. 6:3). Someone may claim to be a Christian before believing or repenting or confessing or this baptism, but a claim does not prove reality---reality proves a claim.

Protestant doctrine convinces many people that they are a Christian “by faith alone” without confession or baptism. Roman Catholic teaching convinces many people that they were cleansed in infancy, when water was sprinkled on them. Search the Scriptures to identify when God cleanses man from sin and find your spiritual identity in Christ, not man.