

What is a Christian?

Christianity may be defined in two ways. (1) It is the religion OF Jesus, and the man Jesus was/is our teacher and example, or (2) It is a religion ABOUT Jesus, whereby we worship Jesus as the unique Son of God.

The ancillary issue is this. How does one achieve salvation, however you might define it? Under scenario (1) we are saved by obeying Jesus and following His example. Under scenario (2) we are saved by believing about Jesus and acknowledging Him as Savior and Lord.

How does the love and grace of God fit into all of this? Under scenario (1) God is already our loving Father and we grow into relationship with Him by obeying the teachings of Jesus. Under scenario (2) God is already our loving Father but we cannot have a relationship with Him except through a belief in Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior.

Under scenario (1) we are saved by God the Father, with the man Jesus as our facilitator. Under scenario (2) we are saved by Jesus Christ, who is actually the same as God the Father, and eventually everyone will experience salvation, sooner or later.

My question for each of you is this. Does it really matter, which view you take? Under each scenario, God is at work in our lives before, during and after we learn about Jesus.