

Two Kinds of Christians and Likely More

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I have come to realize that there are two kinds of Christians. One kind is a person who has had a “born-again experience” in which he or she also may have had some kind of miraculous mental and/or physical healing. The other is a person who has come to be a Christian by a gradual and intellectual process that is equally valid for becoming a Christian but who has a different experience in doing so. Let me explain. There is a difference in how Peter (a disciple of Jesus) and Paul became Christians. Paul had a sudden “born-again experience” when Jesus confronted and blinded him when he, as Saul, was on his way to persecute and jail those who were beginning to follow Jesus as Christians (Acts 9:1-13). In contrast, Peter came to follow Jesus as a Christian when he intellectually and gradually began to recognize that Jesus was truly the Messiah of God. Peter was not perfect and denied knowing Jesus three times, yet Jesus accepted him to be the foundation of His church. Peter came also through a dream to

learn that Jesus who was born in a Hebrew family was meant for Gentiles as well as the Hebrew people. Other people became Christians because Paul taught the Gentiles in many new churches that he established in scattered locations who Jesus was. The people who received Paul's witness and teachings did not have a "born-again" experience but also became Christians because of explanations that Paul gave them that they needed to follow Jesus in their lives. This also applied (a) to an Ethiopian eunuch seated in his chariot, studying the Bible, that the apostle Philip met and explained the Bible to him as well as the good news about who Jesus was (Acts 8:26-40), (b) to two people walking on a road to Emmaus the day after the resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:13-35) when Jesus (not first recognized by these two people) told them who He was and His purpose for His being on Earth, and (c) to a doubter like Thomas, who needed to see the wounds of Jesus (John 20:24-29). Also, the very intelligent Gentile medical-doctor, Luke, did not become a Christian because he had a "born-again experience" but because he interviewed (a) Mary, the mother of Jesus, to learn how she had been chosen to be His mother in a "virgin" birth as reported in Matthew 1:18 and Luke 1:27-34, (b) Mark, who likely was the boy who was a follower of Jesus and who fled naked (slipping out of his clothing) from those who wanted to capture him (Mark 14:51-52), (c) Peter and the other disciples that convinced Luke that he, too, should follow Jesus and caused him to write his gospel story and Acts, and (d) the women who were also disciples of Jesus and who financed His travels. All these

various people became Christians who did not have a “born-again experience.”

On that basis, I also have become a Christian by a gradual intellectual process --- first as a doubter, but the more I studied the life of Jesus, by his example of how to live, and what he taught --- that I became a fully committed Christian and doing the best I can to follow Him. So, there are two valid ways of becoming a Christian. One is by becoming “born again” and the other is by a gradual intellectual process that happened to me and to many other people who have become Christians. However, in a sense I have been born-again intellectually with a new purpose in living my life and have become open to listening to nudges in my mind to follow directions coming from the Holy Spirit that has resulted in some surprising and wonderful experiences that I would not have believed possible.

In reality, there are other people who are Christians who do not attend a Christian church and make no claim to be Christians but who, nevertheless, are following the teachings of Jesus, helping those poor in need, feeding the hungry, and accepting the disenfranchised. They can be doctors, nurses, or police officers whose jobs require them to work on Sundays to heal people from injuries and sickness or to protect them from those who steal. They can be “Nones” who may have once been raised in a church but who do not attend one now because they find members to be hypocrites and judgmental. They can be people who could be atheists or agnostics, who have good morals and are honest but who have not become Christians

because they have been told by some Christians that they must believe in the literal interpretation of the Bible and that the Earth is 6,000 years old and that Noah's flood was global and deposited the sedimentary layers in the Grand Canyon. When they know that modern science says that such is not true, they decided not to be Christians in name but still live in ways that Jesus would approve. Atheists are skeptics who also have published four of my articles when Christian magazines will not do so. See the following.

Twenty-one Reasons Noah's Worldwide Flood Never Happened [Nr38Reasons.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

Response to Ken Ham and YouTube Comments by Andrew Snelling [Nr42Response.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

11 Biological Reasons Young-Earth Creationists' Worldwide Flood Never Happened [Nr45Biological.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

A Christian Geologist Explains Why the Earth Cannot Be 6,000 Years Old [Nr74Christian.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

Today, Christians are a very diverse group who are not members of one church because their leaders have different interpretations of how to follow Jesus that they believe is the correct way to do so or whose rules of governing are different. These Christians can be Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Catholics, or members of many different kinds of Protestant churches (Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists,

Episcopalians, Pentecostals, and non-denominational). Yet, all have members who are seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus or God.

The many reasons for reaching the above assertions made in this article can be found in a document I have written titled: **“God does not lie - versus - Science does not lie.”**

[Nr126Lies2.pdf](#)