

## Being a Christian

(1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

- Introduction:
1. The Bible is not just a book of rules and regulations, but it is also a very practical guide teaching us how to “do life.”
  2. People have varied ideas about what it means to be a Christian.
  3. Christianity cannot be adequately defined by simply listing the things from which a Christian abstains, but must also include a listing of the things in which he engages.
  4. In this lesson, what it means to be a Christian as seen in the life of Paul.

### I. Be Biblical

- A. (1 Thessalonians 2:1-4).
- B. Speak the truth, even in conflict (Acts 16:22-24).
- C. The need for boldness (Acts 4:29).
- D. Our aim should be to please God, not the crowds.

### II. Be Authentic

- A. (1 Thessalonians 2:5-6).
- B. They weren't trying to manipulate people (Jude 16) or make profit through godliness (1 Timothy 6:5).
- C. Paul was sincere.

### III. Be Gracious

- A. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-11).
- B. Notice the terms...gentle, cherish, children, affection, dear, mother, father...
- C. Paul was bold and spoke the truth, but he did so with graciousness (Eph. 4:15).

### IV. Be Relevant

- A. (1 Thessalonians 2:12).
- B. His preaching was intended to help them live a worthy life before God.
- C. Preaching that isn't practical or has no application is not helpful.

- Conclusion:
1. In my estimation, Paul was one of the greatest Christians who has ever lived.
  2. In this short section of Scripture, Paul reveals some challenging characteristics about his life that would help me to be a better Christian.
  3. Let's all work to be more biblical, authentic, gracious, and relevant.