



THE SINNERGISTS PODCAST

Episode 1: What is a Christian?

"Really, Another Christian Podcast?"

We know, we know, there's like a million of them already! But we still think we might have something unique to offer. Our two primary goals are 1.) to help bridge the gap between the academy in the church and 2.) to provide a positive vision and framework for Christian discipleship. To learn more about our vision and goals, check out our very first blog post.

"What in the world does "Sinnergists" mean?"

Great question. **Synergism** comes from a Greek word which means "working together." It is the theological belief that God has granted humankind libertarian free-will whereby we can freely choose either to accept or reject God's gracious invitation of salvation and participation in the kingdom of God. This is in contrast to **monergism**, which is the belief that God acts unilaterally in salvation. Most monergists believe that synergism is a "sinful" and "man-centered" theological system. We, however, believe synergism is a more biblical position, and so, in an attempt to poke some lighthearted fun at our monergist brothers and sisters, we have decided to call ourselves **The Sinnergists**.

What is a Christian, really?

The word "Christian" has essentially lost its meaning. It might be help to begin by explaining what being a Christian is **not**.

- It is not *just* believing right things, though our beliefs are important.
- It is not *just* saying a prayer, though prayer is good.
- It is not *just* fire insurance or a ticket to heaven.

The first occurrence the word "Christian" actually appears in the book of Acts. Luke states, "**The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch**" (Acts 11:26). In other words, the word "Christian" was applied by outsiders to a group of **disciples** of Jesus. The "ian" suffix was a common suffix added to a person's name to describe followers of that person. For example, Herodians were followers of Herod. Christians, then, were followers of _____?

What is a disciple?

Jesus himself answers this question in Luke 6:40: "*A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be **like** the teacher.*" As C.S. Lewis rightly observed, "Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else."

Don't miss Episode 2, where we answer the question "**What is Faith?**"

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