

DON'T SETTLE FOR CHRISTIAN

Don't Settle For Christian

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Scripture: Acts 11:26; Matthew 5:1-2, 8; 7: 26-29; 8:1-3, 5-9, 13; Luke 6:33

Idea: Do for others what they wouldn't dream of doing for you.

[Hi everybody! Thanks so much for tuning in today. As we all try to navigate the ever increasing complexity of life in America, I want to lay out a specific challenge to us church people. If you're not a church "people" or used to be, I think you'll enjoy today's message. It may explain, in part, why you're not a church person or why you're no longer one. Let's jump in.]

[If you were raised in a church similar to the one I was raised in, you discovered early on that . . .]

Becoming a **Christian** is easy

[It costs virtually nothing. That's what makes it so amazing. The price has been paid by Jesus. You simply receive the free gift of forgiveness. Then, you can call yourself a Christian. Becoming a Christian is easy. But when you open the pages of the Gospels and read the letters of Paul, you don't read about anybody becoming a . . .]

CHRISTIAN

[As you probably know, first-century Christians didn't call themselves Christians. That's what non-Christians called Christians. It was probably a slur or a derogatory term. It meant:]

One **associated** with Christ

[. . . or a "Christ one." It wasn't a static label like American or Canadian. It indicated a way of life. The term shows up only three times in the Bible. Luke, who described the events following Jesus's resurrection, documents the first use of the term Christian. It happened in the metropolitan city of Antioch. In telling how the label originated, Luke clarifies what it meant then, but maybe not now. He writes:]

Acts 11:26

The **disciples** were called **Christians** first at Antioch.

[The disciples? Who were the disciples? Not the 12 apostles. This referred to a broader group. In the Gospels, the term "disciple" always referred to Jesus followers. They were people who

