

## **HC 32 – You Too Are Anointed by Christ**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Don't you want your children to reflect you...at least in your good characteristics? Don't you want them to be hard working, disciplined, and make good choices?

Your Savior too! He is your Prophet, Priest, and King, and **he wants His children to reflect him in these ways**. He wants them to reflect how he does his work, to love how he loves, and to care as he cares. But unlike you, he is willing and able to give them every help they need to achieve those goals. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

**A Christian is a Member in Christ**

**A Christian has Benefits in Christ**

**A Christian has Duties in Christ**

Our goals are: That **realizing the greatness of your position and your gifts in Christ, you will take advantage of them and use them for the glory of your Savior.**

Q 32 But why are you called a Christian?

A: Because by faith **I am a member of Christ** and so I **share in His anointing**. **I am anointed to confess His name**, to **present myself to Him a living sacrifice** of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward **to reign with Christ** over all creation for all eternity.

### **A Christian is a Member in Christ**

#### **1. All Christians have Christ's anointing.**

Now while the title "Christian" was likely used in a denigrating way in Antioch to refer to Christians, Christians seized on the opportunity to use it properly. **Christians used it because it was accurate**. Christians are anointed. (Christ means "anointed.")

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the **disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**

Christians are part of Christ!

1Corinthians 12:27 **Now you are the body of Christ**, and members individually.

1John 2:20 But **you have an anointing from the Holy One**, and you know all things.

And Christians are **officers** in Christ's kingdom.

1Peter 2:9 But you are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you **may proclaim the praises** of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

## **2. How do you become a member of Christ?**

**You become a member by having faith in Christ** – in his person and in his work. You simply receive what he has done as if you did it yourself! The Holy Spirit applies this work to you, seals you, and separates you for special duty (anoint you).

1John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.

## **3. While the early church did not write the word “Christian” on their doors, they used it to identify who they were to each other. They also used another Greek word “fish” - “ichthus.”** Each letter of the word “ichthus” – an acronym - started these 5 words in Greek: **Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Savior.** (“Theos” - God – is written as two letters – “th”.)

Those who believed in Christ were welcomed and they identified themselves as Christians. A Christian would draw an ark, like the top half of a fish, and another Christian would recognize each other and make the bottom half of the fish. They identified themselves with the Messiah.

## **4. What a contrast from society today where some clubs deliberately try to keep regular folks out by having very large membership fees – like golf clubs – or put unreachable qualifications.**

But not with Christ! **You can become a member of Christ free of cost with no yearly fee.** It is a costly price that was paid by Jesus.

**Even faith to receive his new life is a gift from him.** And it is the best community in history! You are welcome to join!

## **A Christian has Benefits in Christ**

### **1. You are not only a member of Christ, but you also receive permanent benefits in him.**

These benefits are not only for this life, but they stay with you even after death.

1Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Christ is not a time-out pole, a port for a cruise ship, or a visitor. His gifts are always with you.

### **2. And those permanent benefits would not mean much if they were not great benefits.**

(Brussel sprouts may not be a great gift to all, but these gifts from Christ are! Consider

some of them:

**a. God pours out his Holy Spirit** on you to keep and bless you – to comfort you, instruct you, and pray for you.

**b. God gives you his church with directions of how to guide you and protect you – pastors, elders, deacons.**

**c. God gives you his love letter so you can remind yourself not just of the rules you must follow**, but also of **how he loves you and how he encourages and equips you** to walk with him.

**d. You have the hope of heaven, and God’s Spirit guarantees you will get it.**

Romans 10: 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved.** 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession is made unto salvation.**

### **A Christian has Duties in Christ**

**1. Being a member of Christ and receiving his benefits is good, but membership has its responsibilities.**

**You have to see your duties in Christ’s 3 offices:** prophet, priest, and king, in which you also were anointed.

**If you join a political party**, you have to subscribe to its by-laws (you can’t be a member of another political party and join another one), or **if you join the army**, you have certain rules for behavior that you must follow (you can’t fight for the enemy).

**Sadly, some find this idea of conforming to Christ as prophet, priest, and king, intrusive.** They want to do what is right in their own eyes. Not you! You know there are great benefits to conforming to Christ.

**So what are your duties as Christians to Christ?**

**2. As a prophet:**

**a. You are to confess like Peter that Jesus is the Christ, like you did in your Profession of Faith.**

**b. You have to teach God’s Word – all of it.** One politician recently said: “*Jesus would never discriminate against homosexuals because he was all about love.*” Some believe Jesus would support a *guaranteed monthly welfare check* to cover all expenses. Some teach that *all roads lead to God*. But you must teach the truth of God’s Word...which implies that you must know it well first.

**c. You have to teach the words of Jesus by your actions.** Yes, it is hard to live as a prophet and to speak truth with your life...but “lifestyle preaching” is necessary! So *be honest with your taxes, drive carefully on the road, and fight to protect your family and country.* In doing this you show Christ’s words.

Romans 12: 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Galatians 5: 16 ...**Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

### **3. As a priest:**

**a. You have to worship in the way Christ says.** You don’t need bulls and goats, but you are to worship from your lips and your heart and in spirit and in truth. You have been purified to approach God!

**b. You have to pray to God for yourself and others, starting with your family – your wife and your children.** And praise him for his greatness and goodness to you and yours.

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the **sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Prayers are called “spiritual sacrifices.”

1Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable** to God through Jesus Christ.

**c. You must share in Christ’s suffering–be ready to die,** denying what you want so you may save others.

### **4. As a king:**

**a. You have to protect yourself and others against the constant wiles of the Devil.** Watch over the spiritual condition of those under your charge and help them fight against deceptions of the Devil. Find out what is going on in your children’s lives so you can see if there is danger – peer pressure, or struggles with sins... Discipline your children at home and your spiritual children in church.

**b. You must be the most sensible environmentalists,** because you would follow God...not David Suzuki. You **guard the world** God has entrusted to you and you use it wisely. **You won’t worship the earth.**

**c. As a king you also reign with Christ and you will reign with Christ in fullness in the**

**future.**

2Timothy 2:12 If we endure, **We shall also reign with Him.** If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

**And yet, the Bible teaches Christ is reigning now.** Christ is not a baby in the manger. He is the risen King who sits at God's right hand, judging the nations. He sits there to keep you safe. He sits there to let you know you have a guarantee that a body like yours will be there as well.

**On earth he is reigning through you to bring the world to himself.** The challenge always is to ask yourself: Do I live like one who is reigning for Christ, or do I feel intimidated? Do I let the world know that I represent Christ and call on the world to submit to the King?

**6. But to fulfill your duties you have to be filled with the Spirit of God who protects you.**

**If you don't have God's Spirit you, will avoid your duties.** You will be ashamed of Christ. You'll be afraid to speak and unable to speak. **You need the Spirit's armor.**

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil.

The Devil will do everything he can to stop you from being a prophet, priest, and king under Christ. He has no other purpose in life. So **you have to see these Christian duties as war – war against sin, your flesh, and the Devil.**

1Timothy 1: 18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, **that by them you may wage the good warfare...**

**This is the true view of a Christian battle.** This feminized, bed-of-roses image of Christianity is contradictory to the Bible. **Being a Christian is to be involved in a cosmic struggle-a struggle for world dominion.** Yes, you will have peace in your heart that will help you to fight, but it is a fight. Don't be fooled by those who minimize this fight...as if it the world did not hate you. The Devil and his people would destroy you, if they could!

**Conclusion:**

**You are called to be prophets, priests, and kings.**

**Some people don't share the Gospel because they are ill-prepared, ignorant, or afraid.**

**Some don't pray for strength to face the challenges or pray for conversions.**

**Some fail to protect as kings because they don't know the issues and dangers of the day.** They don't follow the news, they don't read other books other than the Bible, and they know little

of history. So they exercise little discipline on children or delinquent members, etc. **These people receive the benefits from Christ, but they avoid the duties that come with being anointed.** But is should not be so.

Beloved in Christ:

**1. Preach. Let the world know of all the spiritual riches you have found in Christ – how you were saved, sanctified and secured.**

**2. Pray.** Pray for your loved ones...brothers in Christ...enemies. Pray for yourself – that you will not love the pleasures of this world and be drawn to them...but be ready to sacrifice for the lost. Pray for your wife! Pray for your children. Pray for singles. Pray for the depressed. Pray for the tempted.

**3. Protect.** Make sure those under your care know the danger of the world, sin, and the flesh. Punish them when punishment is necessary. Encourage them when you see weaknesses.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, let me **invite** you to membership with Christ. Membership is free for you – Christ paid it in full, and he guarantees those who come will enjoy membership forever. Come to Christ and receive all his benefits. It is hell if you don't receive Christ's benefits.