



Pastor Kris Beckert  
 Christian  
 August 6, 2017

Cover Band

Acts 26, Mark 12, 1 John 5

## How would you define “Christian?”

Acts 26:24-29 *Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!” 25 But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You **almost persuade me to become a Christian.**” 29 And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, **might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.**”*

### I. What characterizes a “cover band” Christian?

1. Good \_\_\_\_\_
2. Good \_\_\_\_\_
3. Good \_\_\_\_\_

### II. What characterizes an authentic Christian?

#### 1. Loving \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 12:29-30 *“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart*

*and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”*

#### 2. Loving \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 12:31 *“...The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

1 Cor 13:4-7 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

#### 3. Living \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 5:1-5 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

### Point:



### Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. What’s been your experience with Church so far? Have most Christians you’ve met been of the “cover band” variety or authentic variety? How do you know?
2. How would a genuine love for God transform how you see your life? How you view problems? What you do with talents and resources?
3. Who in your life is difficult to love? What makes him or her difficult to love? What is one thing you can do this week to show that person love?
4. Is your faith in Christ comprised of mental belief or of covenantal trust?
5. What is most intimidating about the idea of being an authentic Christian? What is most intriguing and attractive about it?