**Are You a Christian?**

2 Timothy 3:5

Idea: What does it mean when people say they are Christians?

I. Introduction:

Paul’s warning to Timothy about godlessness in the last days mentions a characteristic of religious people who claim to be Christians. “They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly,” (2Timothy 3:5). A majority of these people (88% of Americans) hold fast to a worldview of syncretism.

Syncretism is a worldview that is nothing more than a customized personal blend of disparate ideas adopted from multiple philosophies of life. They contain some Bible truths, socialism, Eastern mysticism, Marxism, nihilism and other things. Simply put, it is a mixture which disqualifies them from having a Biblical worldview (held by only 6% of Americans).

II. Today, **69%** of Americans profess to be Christians (followers of Jesus Christ).

 A. Good point: They embrace many basic tenants of the faith. (George Barna – pp. 59-

 60)

B. Bad point: They have a wide range of perspectives that are not biblically true.

 (George Barna – pp. 60-61)

III. So what is the definition of a true follower of Jesus Christ?

1. A follower (disciple) of Christ **abides** (dwells, remains) in Christ and bears **fruit**

(character qualities). (John 15:5)

 B. A follower of Jesus Christ **obeys His teachings**. (John 8:31; Luke 9:23)

 C. Warning: Not all people who claim to be Christians will enter into heaven. (Matthew

 (7:21-23)