



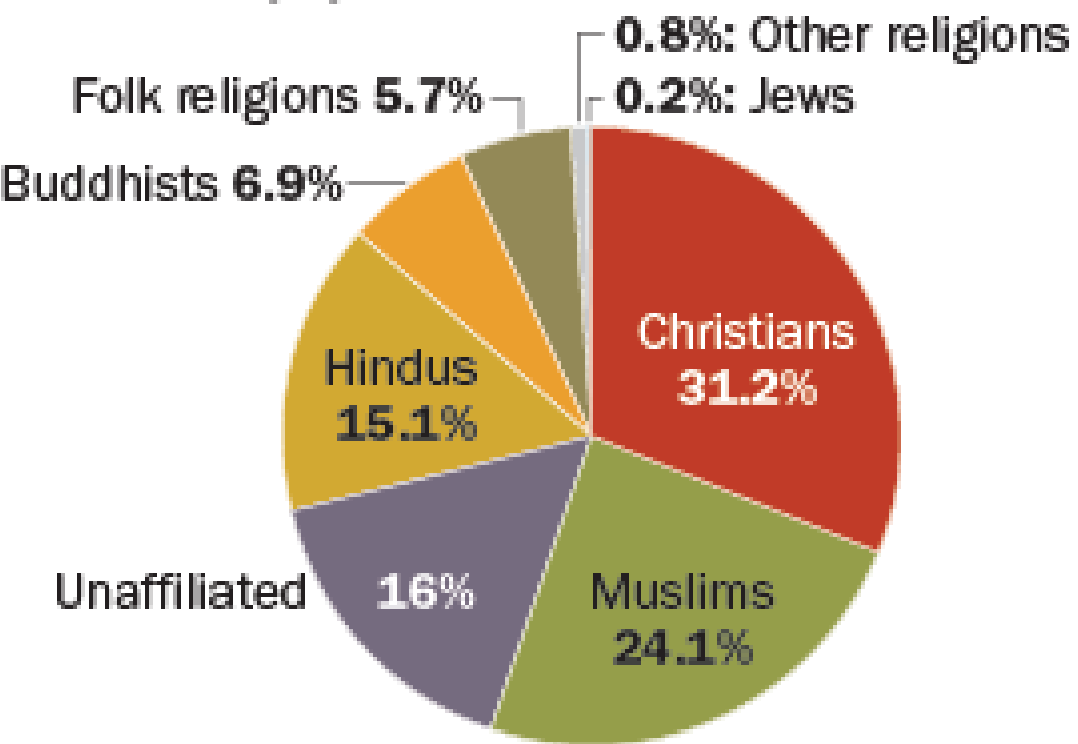
Shofar Christian Church

The Effectiveness of Discipleship

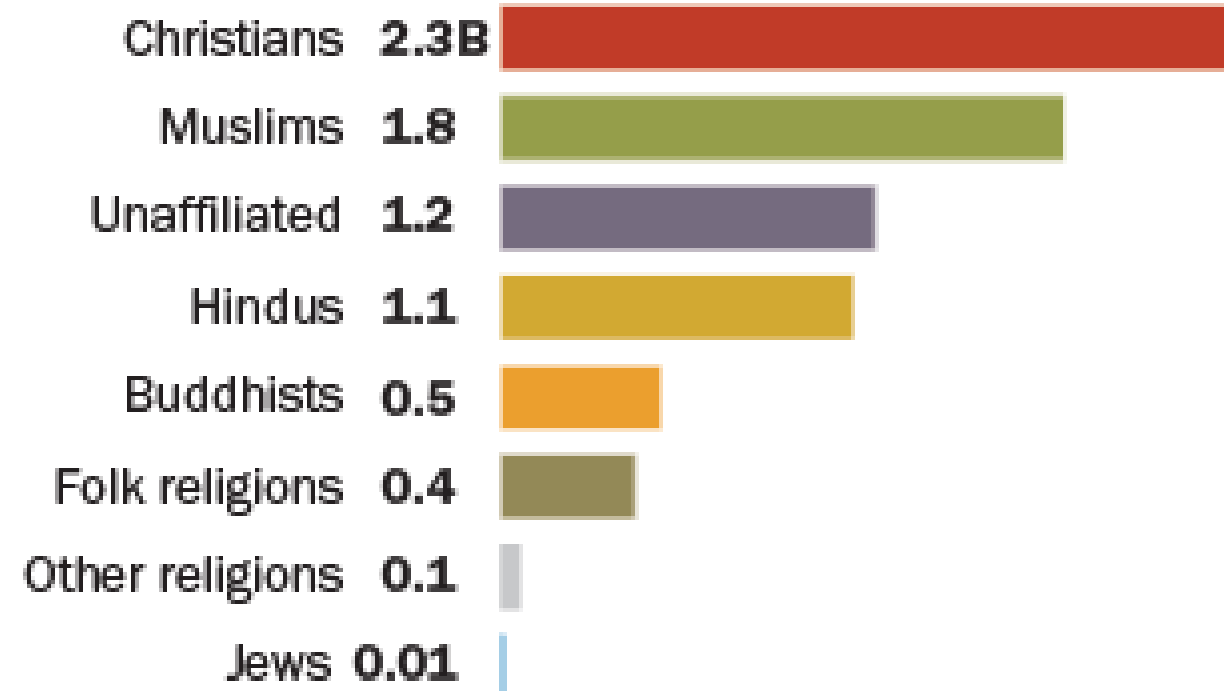
Michael Chivala

Christians are the largest religious group in 2015

% of world population



Number of people in 2015, in billions



Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections. See Methodology for details.

"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



The Effect Christianity had on the world. 1/2

- Impact on the value of human life (human rights, women, children, slavery, gladiators and killing, cannibalism)
- Compassion and mercy (hospitals, orphanages, peace-keeping, activism)
- Marriage and family (gave the basis for lasting and exclusive heterosexual love)
- Education (Bible literacy)

The Effect Christianity had on the world. 2/2

- Government of the people (rule of law, all men created equal, private property rights)
- Science (we believe in a rational God who is the source of a rational truth; consistent and does not contradict Himself; our reference for time is the Crucifixion)
- Free enterprise and work ethic
- Art, music and culture

The Spread of Christianity

The early Christians had no churches or public buildings. They met in homes. They had no access to mass media. The Good News was spread by word of mouth, to all people.

How did they do it?

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

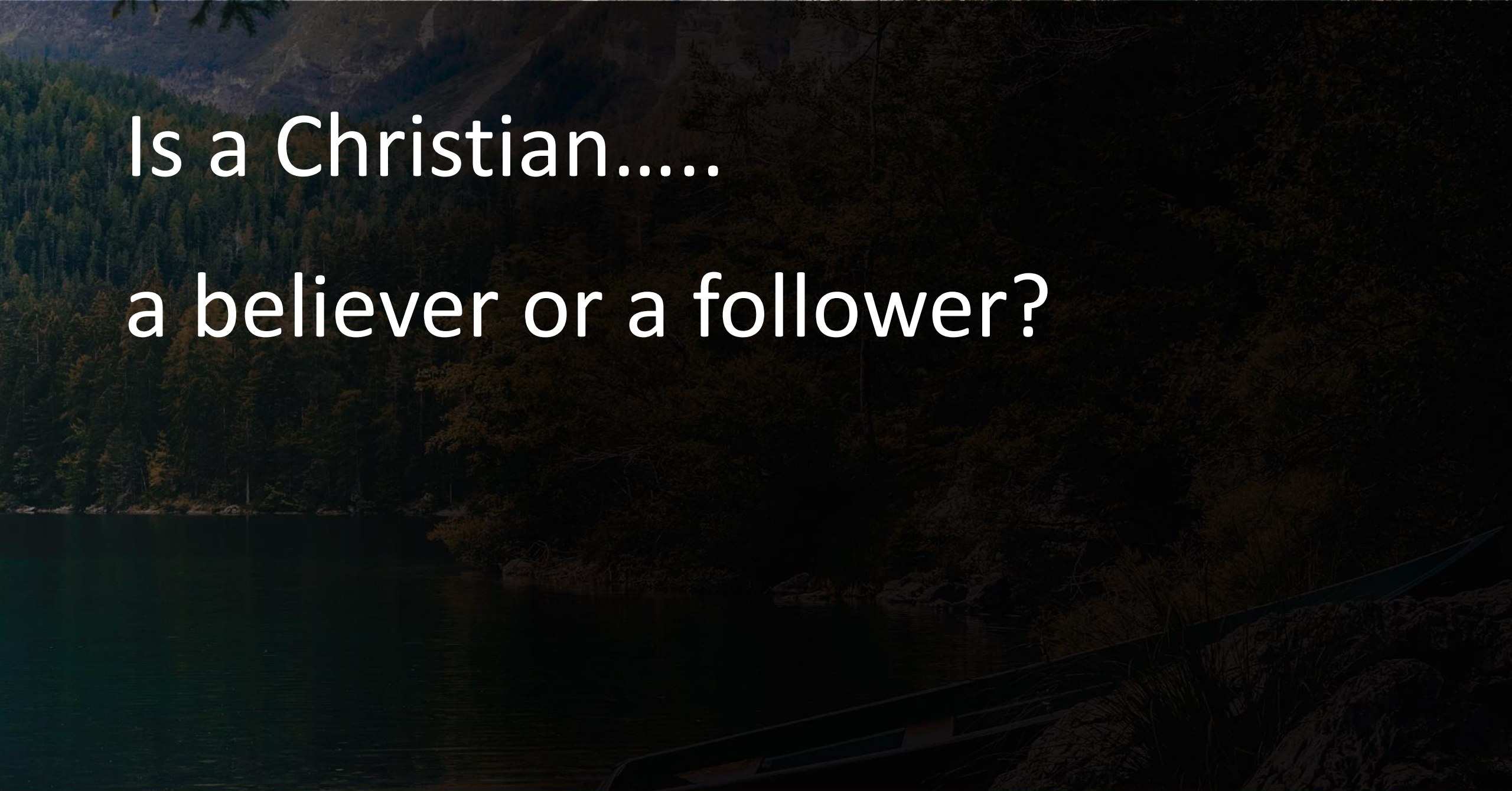
²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

How did they do it?

They had purpose. They had a why? What was most important was not the why, though. The most important thing is that they were given purpose and the Person through whom they received it.

But why are we missing it?

Is the Great Commission still Great? Is it still Great enough for you?



Is a Christian.....
a believer or a follower?

“Christianity has been specially advanced through the loving service rendered to strangers and through their care of the burial of the dead. It is a scandal that there is not a single Jew who is a beggar and that the [Christians] care not only for their own poor but for ours as well; while those who belong to us look in vain for the help we should render them.”

-Emperor Julian, “the Apostate”

How do we make the shift? How do we help others make the shift?

How did Jesus do it?

Jesus's coming back was not just instruction, it was further impartation.

Genesis 24:1-15

24 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell,

Genesis 24:1-15

⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”⁵ The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” ⁶ Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me,

Genesis 24:1-15

‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.” ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Genesis 24:1-15

•¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia^[a] to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham."

Genesis 24:1-15

¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this^[b] I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.”

Genesis 24:1-15

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder.

Impartation

- In an environment of love and trust
- entrusting and transferring vision
- Developing ownership
- Investing time, effort
- maintaining support, relationship

John 21-1-12

21 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

John 21-1-12

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

John 21-1-12

⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards^[a] off.

•⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.

John 21-1-12

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.