

Three Classifications of Christians

Introduction:

- There are three types of Christians throughout the New Testament.
- Of the twelve apostles (class one), there were three who were in the inner circle; Peter, James and John (class two).
- Then out of these three there was one, John, the beloved disciple, who was closer than any of the rest of them (class three).
 - He lay on the Lord's breast at the Last Supper; he went with Him all the way to the cross.
 - John is in a class by himself.
 - We read of the betrayal at the Last Supper, when they were all sitting around the table, that the Lord said, "One of you shall betray me."
 - We read that each disciple said, "Lord, is it I?"
 - But John said, "Lord, who is it?" John had a clear conscience about the matter (**John 13:13-26**).

- So we have three classes of Christians:
 1. We have the twelve - the general called group
 2. We have the three - the intimate circle
 3. We have the one - the close one who is faithful

- **Note** the different degrees of **FRUIT BEARING** for the Christian in **John 15:4-8. 1-8**
 1. The Lord says that a Christian can bear "**FRUIT**" in verse 4.
 2. or, he can bear **MORE FRUIT** in verse 2.
 3. or, he can bear **MUCH FRUIT** in verse 8.

- In **Matthew 13:8** the Bible says:

"But other fell into good ground, and brought forth **FRUIT**, some an **HUNDREDFOLD**, some **SIXTYFOLD**, some **THIRTYFOLD**."

 1. Thirtyfold - CLASS ONE
 2. Sixtyfold - CLASS TWO
 3. Hundredfold - CLASS THREE

- It occurs again in **Revelation 12:11** *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*
 1. Every Christian overcomes the Devil by the blood of the Lamb because every Christian is saved by the blood of the Lamb.
 2. But not every Christian testifies for the Lord, and those who do make up the next class
 3. Yet, those who testify of Christ do not all love the Lord Jesus Christ more than they love their lives, their families, or the world. The group who love not their lives unto death make up the third group.
- **In Revelation 17:14** the Bible says: *"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."*
- **CLASS**
 1. Every Christian is CALLED (Rom 8:29-30)
 2. Not every Christian is CHOSEN for a job
 2. Of those who are chosen, not everyone is FAITHFUL
- **CLASS ONE:**
Represented by the 12 disciples (exclusive of Judas), who are called, who are thirty-fold Christians, who overcome the Devil by the blood of the Lamb and who bring forth fruit.
- **CLASS TWO:**
Represented by the three disciples; Peter, James, and John, who are chosen, who bring forth sixty-fold, who have the word of their testimony and bring forth more fruit
- **CLASS THREE:**
Represented by John the Beloved Disciple, who is faithful, who brings forth hundred-fold, who loved his life not unto the death and brings forth much fruit.
- Christians serve the Lord through **THREE** Motives:
 1. Those who serve because they are afraid of Him, serve as **SLAVES**.
 2. Those who serve just to get rewards, or wages, serve as **HIRELINGS**.
 3. Those who serve because they love Him, serve as **SONS**.