

CHOOSE THE TRUE CHRISTIAN

Cast:

(Adults) Host, R.U. Pious, and Simon Price

(Children) Contestants A, B, and C

Props:

Chairs for judges and contestants, cross pendant for Contestant A.

Staging:

The judges (R.U. Pious and Simon Price) are seated at stage right. Host stands in the middle. Use microphones as necessary.

Host: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to *Choose the True Christian*, the game show where you (*points to audience*) decide who the true Christian disciple is. Let's start by introducing our judges. (*Judges stand up and wave or bow as they are introduced.*) First we have R.U. Pious. Ms. (*or Mr.*) Pious, nice to have you with us. And next we have Simon Price. Glad you could make it.

As always, our contestants are three young people, out to show us that they are true Christians. So here they are: Contestant A, Contestant B, and Contestant C. (*Contestants enter stage left and stand or sit in a row.*)

I'll start Round 1 by asking some preliminary questions, and in Round 2, our judges will ask each contestant two questions.

(To the contestants.) You all know how the game is played? I'll ask the question, and you'll each give your answer in turn.

Starting with contestant A, how often do you go to church?

A. I go to church every week, sometimes more than once.

B. I go almost every Sunday.

C. I go when I can get there.

Host: What is your favorite Bible verse?

A. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

B. Psalm 23. The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want, and so on.

C. Gee, I don't know...

Host: (*Cutting off Contestant C.*) Oh, that's too bad. Now we'll reverse the order and C, you'll be answering first. Do you pray regularly?

C. I wouldn't say that I pray regularly...

Host. (*Cuts off again.*) Contestant B?

B: I pray at church, and before I eat a nice meal.

A: (*Interrupting.*) I pray before every meal, not just the nice ones. I pray every single day.

Host: Thank you contestants. We're really getting a sense of your Christian discipleship. One more question before we turn you over to the judges. What is the most important day of the church year?

C: That's hard to say...

A: (*Interrupting.*) Christmas, definitely. If Jesus wasn't born, what would we talk about in church?

Host: Now, Contestant A, it's not your turn yet, but thank you for sharing your answer. B?

B: Easter is the most important. If Jesus didn't die and rise again, we wouldn't be Christians.

Host: Judges, we've had some good answers from our contestants. Let's move on to Round 2 of *Choose The True Christian*. For the second round, each judge will be able to ask each contestant two questions. Ms. Pious, you may begin.

Pious: Contestant A, your answers were all perfect. Is it easy for you to be a Christian?

A. Of course it's easy. Jesus died for my sins, so it's not like I have to do anything, right?

Host: Next question.

Ms. Pious: Contestant A, I see that you're wearing a cross pendant. That's so nice. Do you wear it to school?

A. Yes, I do, almost every day, but I have to take it off for gym class.

Host. Good answer. Mr. Price, you may ask Contestant A your questions.

Price. Contestant A, You said that you go to church quite often. Do you worship every week?

A: Of course I worship. Just ask Ms. Hendricks. She's always asking me and my friends to be quiet during the sermon.

Price: Contestant A, you said you wear your cross pendant to school. Do people know what it means to you?

A. Well, they all know now, after what happened last week. A new student came to school, and I just happened to be wearing my cross. She asked what it meant to wear a cross. I said, "Are you stupid or something! It means I'm Christian. Omigosh, I couldn't believe that somebody wouldn't know that. My friends and I talked about the new girl all during lunch. We wondered where on earth she came from. We certainly didn't want to hang around with her.

Price. I see.

Host: Thank you, Contestant A. That was most revealing. Let's move on to Contestant B. Ms. Pious?

Pious: Yes. Contestant B. Why don't you go to church *every* Sunday?

B: Well, sometimes I have a ball game, or go to a sleepover on Saturday night, so I don't make it to church on Sunday.

Host: Second question.

Pious: I just love Psalm 23 myself. How do you feel about being one of the flock?

B. (*Hesitantly*) Well, I, uhh. Nice. It's nice to have the Lord as my Shepherd.

Host: Mr. Price, it's your turn for questions.

Price: Who decides when to go to church and when to go to a ball game?

B. My family. I mean, playing ball is really important for my future, I'm hoping for a scholarship someday, so we don't like to miss any games.

Price: Why do you think Easter is the most important day of the church year?

B. Well, if Jesus didn't die for my sins, I'd have to worry about being a better person.

But now if I miss church sometimes, it's okay, because Jesus died for my sins. If I'm rude like Contestant A, it doesn't matter, because Jesus died for my sins.

Host: (*Cutting off Contestant B*) Moving right along. Let's hear from Contestant C. Ms. Pious, your question.

Pious: It's obvious that you are not a Christian. You don't go to church, or pray regularly, or anything. Why do you think you are here?

C: Maybe somebody thought my actions imitated God ...

Pious: I don't think so!

Host: Now, now, let's stick to questions, not comments.

Pious: It's sweet of you to think that your actions imitate God. But wouldn't it be easier to just admit that you are not a good Christian?

C: Yes, I'll admit that.

Host: Well, I guess that eliminates you from the competition. I don't know what left to ask, but Mr. Price, you still get two questions.

Price: Do you try to imitate God in your actions?

C. Yes, I do.

Price: Could you explain to us some of the answers that you gave in the first round?

C. Well, I go to church when I can, but lots of times I have to stay home with Grandma. She can't be left alone, and sometimes Mom needs to work on Sundays, and we trade off who comes to church.

I couldn't come up with a favorite Bible verse, because there are so many that I like—"I lift up my eyes to the hills--from where will my help come?" "Rejoice evermore," "Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ gave himself up for us..."

As for praying, I don't pray regularly, but irregularly, at all kinds of weird times. When I'm at school trying to figure out what to do about someone who is being teased, or sometimes in the morning, when it's a really nice day...

And as for the most important day of the church year, well, aren't we supposed to be disciples every day, even when it's not easy?

Host: *(With astonishment)* I have never seen such a turn of events in all my days of hosting Choose the True Christian. Before we turn the voting over to our studio audience, I'm going to ask Contestant C one final question.

Why did you say that you are not a good Christian?

C. I wouldn't call anyone a good Christian or a bad Christian. We're Christians because we believe Christ died for our sins. That's God's gift to us. The things we do and say and how we behave—that's our gift to God. We all make poor choices sometimes, so maybe judging people, and trying to choose the true Christian, isn't a very good idea.

(Contestants and judges all nod their heads in agreement.)

Host: I was about to invite our studio audience to vote, but maybe that's not the way to end our show. *(Looks at the contestants and shakes his head. Looks up at the audience.)* Here's an idea—we're all winners! Christ died for our sins! Salvation is our prize!

What you do with your prize *(pointing at audience)*, that's discipleship.

(Judges and contestants start clapping.)

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