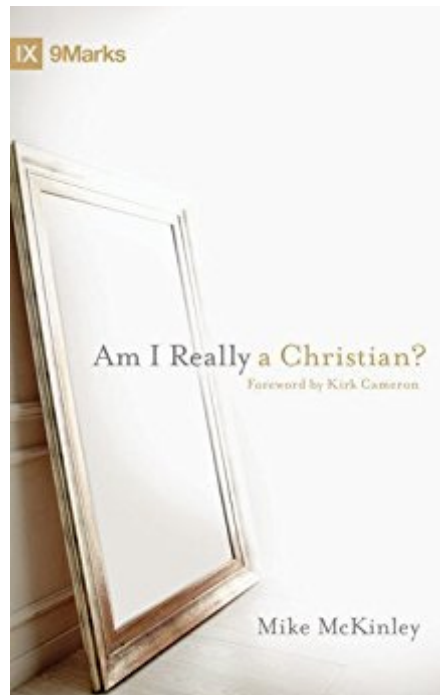




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Am I Really A Christian? (Foreword By Kirk Cameron) (9marks)



Synopsis

Jesus divided the world into two groups—those who follow him and those who don't. But what happens when someone thinks he or she is a Christian, but isn't? With his witty, engaging style, Mike McKinley takes readers on a journey of what it means to be a Christian. He asserts that “manipulative evangelism techniques and a poor understanding of the gospel have resulted in an abundance of professing Christians who have no idea what it means to follow Christ.” Each chapter title begins with “You’re not a Christian [if/when/just because you]”. As he surveys what it means to be Christian, McKinley offers criteria for evaluating one’s standing before God. Readers are guided through a series of challenges to reflect, repent, remember, and report to another person. *Am I Really a Christian?* ends with chapters on salvation and the local church. This unique book is written for nominal or new Christians and can be used in personal or small-group study.

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Customer Reviews

"Am I really saved?" is a question that many Christians have likely asked themselves at some point. It's something that weigh on the mind of the newer convert or the churched individual going on 40 years in the same church. Far from being irrelevant or pointless, it's dealing with our eternal destination, and so is certainly worthy of serious consideration. Mike McKinley's work in this book is generally clear, concise writing, but he also carries a light touch throughout, and the whole book is a very easy read. McKinley covers multiple key aspects of truly being a Christian, including:-Trusting the facts of the gospel-Hating sin-Perseverance in the faith (see note below)-Loving others-Loving stuff over Christ At the same time, McKinley admits this is not an exact science, but points to verses that can give the Christian assurance in his or her faith. Additionally, he's right to point out the self-evaluation is difficult, and accountability is a big aspect of belonging to a church and fellowship with other Christians. Many of the 9Marks books are known for being geared towards church builders, pastors, and elders, but there are also books like this one that are easily accessible to even inexperienced, newer Christians. Coming in at only 160 pages, it also has discussion questions at the end of each chapter, as well as reflections on repentance and application, making it suitable for possible small groups use as well as for the individual. This is not a "scare tactics" book, but neither does it pull any punches in addressing how a Christian is instructed to act, and just where true belief needs to lie. Bear in mind this is from a Reformed position, so those not adhering to that might have some minor quibbles (I know others mentioned the perseverance chapter; given my beliefs, it wasn't an issue for me), but this is a book that should be useful to a wide range of denominational backgrounds (hey, McKinley even quotes John Wesley for one prime example, so there's that). If you or someone in your circles has been struggling with assurances of their salvation, this is a fine place to start, especially since it makes sure to back everything up with Scripture. When I read Matthew 7:21-23, I'm glad there are teachings like this out there to help assure and convict Christians to really look after their salvation.

Matthew 7:21-23 says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' This is THE scariest passage in the Bible. These people are doing big things and yet they aren't Christians! This poses the question, "How do I know if I am saved, or if I am one of these people?" That is what Mike McKinley tries to answer in his book, "Am I Really A

Christian?" He calls for self-examination. Don't get comfortable in your walk with God. We should constantly be assessing whether or not we are acting like a child of God. McKinley makes seven assumptions: You are not a Christian... 1) Just because you say you are. 2) If you haven't been born again. 3) Just because you like Jesus. 4) If you enjoy sin. 5) If you do not endure to the end. 6) If you don't love other people. 7) If you love your stuff. Our world is full of people who think Jesus was a great guy, who claim to be Christians, who are "nice", and who give to the poor. But doing these things does not make a person a Christian. McKinley does a good job of getting into the basic beliefs of every Christian. But what about doubts? At one time or another everyone has had their doubts about their faith. Does that make me not a Christian? This question is answered in the end of the book. I highly recommend this book for any Christian who is struggling with doubting their faith. The point of this book is not to scare believers into thinking that they are going to hell. The point is to encourage all of us to examine ourselves to see if there is fruit in our lives. John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

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