

## Muslim Christians?

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What does it mean to be a Christian? What are we called to do? Very broadly speaking, we are called to be muslims, no, not in the definition of the word as “an adherent of Islam” but in the literal translation of the word which means “one who submits.” St. Nikon of Optina says:

*Without humility, one cannot be a disciple of Christ. Without humility, the heart of a man does not receive—does not assimilate—the teachings of Christ. Humility inspires the heart of a man: to be submissive to the will of God; to humbly accept everything that the Lord is pleased to send on his path of life; to submit his mind, his understanding, and his desires to the obedience of Christ.*

Every minute of every day we are called to submit to the will of God. This is a difficult thing! But just because it is difficult does not mean that it is impossible, or that we should not try. As Orthodox Christians we are called to take up our cross and struggle to theosis, struggle to become ‘partakers of Christ’ as the apostle Paul put it.

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