

Fish And The Early Church



ICHTHUS - Fish

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the
Son of God hath not life. 1 John 5:12

Christians would identify themselves with the fish symbol in the early Church. One person might draw the top line of the fish symbol. If the other person was a Christian, he would draw the second curved line to complete the fish. This was a way for Christians to identify a fellow believer during times of Christian persecution.

The Greek word for fish is ICHTHUS. Each letter of the Greek word for fish stood for a certain word, an acronym. Putting the words together was a simple way of relaying who Jesus is. He is: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. Today, a person might display the fish symbol. This means this person believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God. It also means that person has received Christ as his Saviour.

I	Ιησους	Jesus
X	Χριστος	Christ
Θ	θεου	of God
Υ	Υιος	Son
Σ	Σωτηρ	Saviour

The next time you see the fish symbol, stop to think:
Is Jesus Christ the Son of God MY Saviour?

James Utter

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