



# Meaning of the Christian Symbol of the Fish



The Greek word for “fish” is the noun **ἸΧΘΥΣ / ἰχθύς (*ichthús*)**. The **χ (ch)** and **θ (th)** are diphthongs and function as single characters in the Greek alphabet. Therefore, the word for “fish” has five letters. Persecution of believers was common in the early years of Christianity. The way one could secretly identify himself to other Christians was by the symbol of a fish. The word’s five letters form the acronym for the following Greek sentence:

Ἰησοῦς	Χριστός	Θεός	υἱός	Σωτήρ
<i>Iēsoús</i>	<i>Christós</i>	<i>Theós</i>	<i>Huiós</i>	<i>Sōtér</i>
Jesus	Christ	God	Son	Savior

These five words contain a complete description of our Lord. His name is Jesus which means salvation. He is the Messiah/Christ. He is undiminished deity (God) and true humanity (Son) in one Person in hypostatic union. He is the Savior of any who believe.