

DOES YOUR LIFE REFLECT JESUS?

Acts 4:13-22

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The Gospel that Peter and John preached and the miracle that had been performed at the temple (the healing of the crippled man) could not be ignored or denied for they had faithfully spoken of Jesus. Everyone who had seen what Peter and John had done and heard what they had to say recognized that these two men had indeed been with Jesus because they were so bold in what they did and what they said. A question for every believer to ask him/herself is "does MY life reflect Jesus?" "What does MY life say about Jesus?" "What does my behavior around others say about my profession of faith in Jesus?" "As a Christian, how do others see me?"

I. JUST WHO/WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

1. A Christian is a person who has believed in God's Son, Jesus Christ.
 - He/she has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus which was shed to satisfy God's justice.
 - He/she is one who has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit by hearing and responding to the Word of God.
 - He/she is a person who acknowledges his/her sin and has confessed them to God.
 - He/she is a person who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
2. A Christian is a person who desires and seeks to be as much like Jesus Christ as possible.
 - He/she is unflinching in boldness to bring honor to God.
 - He/she is gentle and loving.
 - He/she is humble.
 - He/she is righteous
3. Good works have nothing to do with salvation, it is by grace alone however grace always produces good works.

II. WHEN SHOULD CHRISTIANS/BELIEVERS TRY TO BE LIKE JESUS?

1. It is not just on Sundays when one attends Church services.
 - Sadly many don't want their "religion" to interfere with their everyday life.
 - If your "religion" doesn't interfere with your everyday life, then your "religion" is false.
2. The person who truly knows Jesus Christ works at being like Him at all times, in all places, in all circumstances.
 - In God's House.
 - In every day affairs of life.
 - In the home.
 - In his/her heart and attitude.

III. WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN/BELIEVER TRY TO BE LIKE JESUS?

1. It is not some set of laws that the Christian lives by, but by God's grace.
 - It is not out of fear of punishment or hope of reward that believers try to be like Jesus.
 - It is not because one wants to be seen by others that believers try to be like Jesus.
 - Believers try to be like Jesus for the cause of the Gospel.
 - Out of love and gratitude the believer tries to be like Jesus.

IV. HOW CAN A PERSON BE LIKE JESUS?

1. Not anybody can be like Jesus.
 - If it is out of trying to imitate Jesus' love and purity then one will fail.
 - Just trying to imitate Jesus has no foundation and there will be failure.
2. One cannot begin to be like Jesus until his/her heart has been renewed by God's grace.
 - One must be born again before he/she can even start to be like Jesus.
3. Only Jesus can make others be like Him.
 - By His blood atonement.
 - By His imputed righteousness.
 - By His regenerating and sanctifying through grace.
 - By His resurrection and present glory.

CONCLUSION:

1. Peter, John, Paul and many others made it very clear that they were different and it was obvious to others that these men had been around Jesus and were very much like Him.
2. Does YOUR life reflect Jesus? In what way? How often? Around what kind of people?
3. How often do YOU try to be like Jesus?
4. Where do you try to be like Jesus more than other places?
5. IF YOU are a Christian, then there is within you all you need to be like Jesus but YOU determine just how much like Jesus you actually are.
6. What do others think of you as being like Jesus?