

HOW THE CHRISTIAN MUST LIVE

Ephesians 4:1-3 Romans 8:29

Introduction: There was a knock on the pastor's door very late one Saturday night. Upon opening it he found a young man, member of their church, leaning against the doorway. He was drunk! Before the pastor could say a word, the young man, in drunken slurred speech, informed the pastor he had been out witnessing. He had been at one of the local night club bars witnessing to all those sinners he said and in order to witness, he had to act like them, so he drank with those he was witnessing to. Everyone left the bar no doubt as drunk as this young man was. The pastor was a bit taken back so as the young man turned to leave, he remarked to the young man, "I hope you didn't tell them what Church you were from..."

The end of God's purpose for us is to be conformed to God's image which Adam lost and the work of Jesus has since made it possible to be restored. However it is the Christian who is God's means of getting that message to the world.

There is a certain manner of life the Christian MUST exhibit as evidence of truly belonging to the family of God.

I. THE CHRISTIAN MUST WALK WORTHY OF THE GOD-CALLED MANNER OF LIFE

1. Why is the Christian's manner of life to be so different?
 - Because he/she has come from death to life, from sin to holiness, from hell to heaven.
 - Because he/she was once dead in sin but has been made alive. Was once lost but has been found.
 - He/she is now alive and has begun to live a new life in becoming Christ-like in all ways, living a holy life.
 - Because he/she was once damned to an eternity in hell, but through Christ's death has been given a heavenly inheritance.

2. What makes up the Christian's new way of life?
 - Being a Church member indicates that one has publicly identified with Jesus Christ and therefore MUST live like Christ.
 - If Christ-like, one would not be setting his/her affections on anything of this world but on things above only.
 - If Christ-like, one would be anxious to be called home to heaven, for where one's treasure is, there is his/her heart also. Christ's heart and treasure is Heaven.
 - If Christ-like, one would not be living for self, but totally for God. God's will would be supreme.
 - If Christ-like, one would be attempting to live as Christ lived, walking worthy of the high calling of God to be a part of His family.

II. IT IS VITAL THAT THE CHRISTIAN WALK WORTHY (TO BE CHRIST-LIKE)

1. God calls for it.
 - Just what has God called the Christian to be?
 - *1 Thessalonians 4:7; Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:29 = HOLY*

- If a person fails to live Christ-like, it is to bring shame and reproach upon the NAME of Christ and all that the Church stands for. The Church is hurt, the name "Christian" is dragged down to mean nothing.
- God tells the Christian to be Christ-like and to put on the mind of Christ.

2. People expect the Christian to act Christ-like.

- When a person becomes a Church member, he/she has publicly identified with Christ and the local Church and people will demand proof that one is sincere.
- One can talk about his/her faith and Church membership, but people want to SEE works.
- God is the only one beside that professing person who really knows the heart, whether a person is truly saved or not, but people make their judgments by what the fruit in that person's life.
- If one professes to be a Christian, which would make him/her elect in God's sight, then people have the right to ask, "What do ye more than others?" Do you act/react any differently than others? What about attitudes? What about in a crisis?
- People don't see our "inward" experiences, but they see the outward CONDUCT.
- If one's conduct is not different then there is nothing to offer the lost world.
 - That "Christian" is really worse, for a profession has been made, identity with Christ has been made, but if there is no Christ-like life, then that one is nothing more than a hypocrite and is deceiving him/herself and others.

3. The Christian must be CONSISTENT in being Christ-like.

- "Christian" means being reborn, renewed, old things pass away, a new nature has been given.
- When there is no compassion but there is pride, selfishness, intolerance, unforgiveness, how does the love of God dwell in that person? That is not the Christ-like life.
- To call Jesus Lord without being Christ-like and walking in His steps is being a deceiver.

CONCLUSION:

1. Living Christ-like is commanded by God.

- God has said plenty about lip-professions only. There must be the Christ-like life accompanying it.
- Be sure of your relationship with God. Does your life live up to your profession?

2. The world's future depends upon Christians.

- The Christian is God's spokesperson.
- If every Christian was just like you, what kind of hope does our world have?

3. So, what do you need to do?