

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN

Philippians 3:10-14

Introduction: Becoming a Christian is an instantaneous act, for one's sincere profession of faith in Jesus is the act of being born again and this time into God's family. The beginning of a new way of life known as the Christian life has now just begun. Living a Christian life is giving Jesus Christ every hour of every day and doing whatever Jesus says. Anything less is but an imitation of living a Christian life. It is obvious to other Christians whether you are giving Jesus your total existence or not, whether you are really living your Christian life as you should.

I. JUST HOW DOES ONE LIVE AS A CHILD OF GOD

1. *Matthew 13:53-58*

2. Jesus went back to His home town, where He was raised, where His family still lived and found that He was not accepted very well.
 - The people were offended as well as astonished. They couldn't explain His current behavior.
 - He was "play-acting," a phony. They didn't know that He was God in the flesh. What caused so much puzzlement?
 - They did not know that He was MAN as God had created man to be.
 - Jesus was living as God wanted, not as they were.
3. God created mankind to live and function with God doing the directing.
 - Becoming a Christian and LIVING the Christian life are very different.
 - What gasoline is to a car, what electricity is to a light, that is what God is to man.
 - Without gasoline, one's vehicle is useless. Without electricity, one's lights are useless.
 - Adding the gasoline and electricity does not make things better but enables things to work.
 - Man detached from God is unable to function as God intended but put God into a person and that person will act as he/she should for God will be in control.
 - Jesus in a person brings that person back to what he/she was supposed to have been like from the beginning.
 - As Jesus allowed God to be in Him and guide Him, thus we are to allow Jesus to do the same within us.
 - Jesus is NOT JUST AN EXAMPLE for Christians to follow, but Jesus is to be allowed to do whatever He wills within the Christian's life.
 - Jesus did not come only so that believers might escape Hell and go to Heaven, but He came to bring God out of heaven into the believer. To live within the believer the kind of life people were created to live in the first place.
 - Sadly, there are many "unsaved" believers having just a "head" belief but Jesus is not on the inside. They have believed traditional things, religious things, but Jesus has never been allowed to take control of their lives and live through them.
4. One's faith, attitude, disposition, allows Jesus to live within one's life as Jesus wants.
 - Faith "lets," "allows." Faith is what the gear shift is to a car. Faith engages one's life with Jesus. The gear shift is not the power of the car, but it joins the power to the wheels.

- Faith lets, allows Jesus to do in one's life what He came to do, to live His life through the believer.
- Faith allows, lets Jesus save for only Jesus can save. Faith is the gear that brings Jesus in.
- Faith recognizes Jesus as the Son of God and lets, allows Him to be all He desires.
- Confidence in the OBJECT of one's faith causes less awareness of that faith.
 - Ever give much thought to examining a chair before sitting down? Or was there an unconscious confidence that the chair would hold you up?
 - The more one knows about the object of his/her faith, the more confident his/her faith will be.
- The more the Christian knows about Jesus, the less aware he/she will be of his/her faith because of the confidence in Jesus.
- Redemption has been accomplished and Jesus is looking for people who will let/allow Him to do what He came to do and for those people to be confident that He can and will. One's faith does just that.
- Confidence comes from knowledge of the object of one's faith.

CONCLUSION:

1. A person gets acquainted with Jesus by the Word of God.
2. Salvation comes by Jesus Christ only. Whenever a person allows, lets Jesus do what He came to do, a new birth happens and one is born into the Family of God.
3. The Christian life is an attitude that allows Jesus to do within one's life what Jesus wants to do, to make that person into what he/she is supposed to be like in the first place.
 - Attending services every once in a while is not what Jesus came to do for Christians.
 - Jesus came to direct all the Christian's life, what is said, where he/she goes. Anything less is not living the Christian life as Jesus wants.
4. What kind of Christian life are you presently living? Your way or Jesus' Way?
5. It is entirely up to the believer as to how much Jesus is allowed to do in his/her life. The amount of FAITH in Jesus determines how much of one's life Jesus is allowed to have.
6. If a believer trusts Jesus with his/her eternity (salvation) then why not entrust Jesus with one's earthly life as well? Believer, let Jesus be your life.