

How should a Christian live?

Stand out or Blend in? The Bible makes it clear that the Christian is to be different than others, but just how? You'll be surprised at how scripture can lead you to a way of life that gives peace with God, your family, your neighbors, and yourself.

Introduction

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Titus 2:11,12

These two verses encompass much of what matters to a believer when considering what a Christians life consists of. A careful look at these important thoughts reveal some fundamental truths about how we ought to live.

1. **“denying ungodliness”** That by denying ourselves of these, or refusing to practise them, we should lead a holy life." The word ungodliness, here means all that would be included under the word impiety (irreverence toward God; lack of respect); that is, all failure in the performance of our proper duties towards God.

2. The phrase **"worldly lusts,"** refers to unlawful desires, and lustings after secular things (ex: party lifestyle), as are commonly found in men of the world.

3. **“We should live soberly”**, with sound mind, temperately, discreetly devoid of frivolity, excess, exaggeration, or speculative imagination; straightforward; Marked by seriousness, gravity, or solemnity of conduct or character and self-restraint. It means that we should exercise a due restraint on our passions and propensities (natural inclinations).

4. **“Righteously”**, justly, properly, as is right in God's eyes and found in His Word, the scriptures. This also refers to the proper performance of our duties to our fellowmen; and it means that Christ teaches us to perform those duties with faithfulness, according to all our relations in life; to all our promises and contracts; to our fellow-citizens and neighbours; to the poor, and needy, and ignorant, and oppressed; and to all those who are providentially placed in our way who need our kind offices.

5. **“and godly”**. Piously;(reverent and devoted) that is, in the faithful performance of our duties to God. spiritual, reverent, righteous, virtuous, moral, God-fearing.

(1.) Our duty to ourselves—included in the word "soberly," and requiring a suitable control over our evil propensities and passions;

(2.) Our duty to our fellow-men in all the relations we sustain in life; and

(3.) Our duty to God—a(reverent and devoted) life.

2Corinthians 4:11 "For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."

If we are successfully living for Christ, these things will be evident as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Follow Christ

The apostle Paul said in 1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

What are some of these characteristics of Christ that we can emulate?

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| 1) The character of Christ is altogether lovely: | 12) Christ is harmless: | 22) Christ is benevolent: |
| 2) Christ is Holy: | 13) Christ resisted temptation: | 23) Christ is loving: |
| 3) Christ is righteous: | 14) Christ is obedient to God the Father: | 24) Christ is self-denying: |
| 4) Christ is good: | 15) Christ is zealous: | 25) Christ is humble: |
| 5) Christ is faithful: | 16) Christ is meek: | 26) Christ is resigned: |
| 6) Christ is true: | 17) Christ is lowly in heart: | 27) Christ is forgiving: |
| 7) Christ is just: | 18) Christ is merciful: | 28) Christ is subject to His parents: |
| 8) Christ is guileless: | 9) Christ is patient: | 29) Saints are conformed to the character of Christ: |
| 9) Christ is sinless: | 20) Christ is long-suffering: | |
| 10) Christ is spotless: | 21) Christ is compassionate: | |
| 11) Christ is innocent: | | |

As a private study, see if you can find the scripture references that show where these ideas came from.

The scriptures are a treasury of teaching, comfort, instruction and help. The following is a list of most of the verses that contain the phrase “be ye”, found in the new testament epistles. They show a pattern of behavior found in a person living according to God’s will.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Rom 12:2

Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 1 Cor 4:16

Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 1 Cor 10:7

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. 1 Cor 11:1

Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. 1 Cor 14:20

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Cor 15:58

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 2 Cor 5:20

Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged. 2 Cor 6:13

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 2 Cor 6:14

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 2 Cor 6:17

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Eph 4:26

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Eph 4:32

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; Eph 5:1

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Eph 5:17

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Col 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Col 3:15

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. James 5:8

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 1 Pet 1:15
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 1 Pet 1:16

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 1 Pet 3:8

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 1 Pet 4:7

What does it all Mean?

So far this all looks like a BIG list of things to think about and to do. I can make my own do's and don'ts list you might say, I don't need another one of those.... I guess I would have to agree with you on that, but that is not what being a Christian is about. You see God wants to spend time with us, now and in eternity. Before we can spend quality time with him, we need to understand who we are and who God is to see the important things in between, namely the person Christ Jesus.

First, man sinned.

Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen 3:6-7

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Then, we inherited Adams sin nature and we have all sinned. Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

As a result, our sinful nature has put distance between us and God.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. And, we cannot see God; John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him, and I Jn 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time....

This is still true today, and left to our own devices no man ever would, ever. But thank God that the story does not end there.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Then; Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; and, Eph 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.

Now we find ourselves in a position of being a new creation, (2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.) and at the same time having this sin nature (the old man, the flesh),(Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.).

(As a separate activity, study/review the first eight chapters of Romans.)

We are saved, but we have the old nature with us still. The new nature is a creation of God as we have just seen. And this new nature cannot sin, (I Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

All this happens because of the love of God in perfect accord to his will, and holiness to us. Meditating on this will inspire you to love him more and more.

So the key then is to live in such a way as to allow the new creation,(nature) rule in our lives. So then the question becomes, "How do we do that?"

Am I saved?

First of all, before we continue, if you are not sure you are a Christian I pray you will settle that important matter now by taking the following steps:

Acknowledge your sin to God and be willing to repent of it. Romans 3:23, Acts 17:30.

Believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for you and Rose again. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

Come in faith to Him, the Saviour, and commit your whole life to Him, trusting Him alone for Salvation. See Matthew 11:28, 29, John 6:37, Romans 10:13. Do this by means of a simple, sincere prayer.

Life Applications

Having taken these steps, it is important for you to know How to Succeed in the Christian Life. Here are some very important things to consider.

Realize that you are; important to God, loved by God, A new creation, cared for more than the lilies of the field..

Get an attitude! Joshua said, as for me and my house, I will serve the Lord. We can learn by this powerful statement. We can adopt this attitude too. How you might ask? Read on.

Learn to yield to the spirit of the Lord;
Rom 6:13

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Be led by the spirit as instruments of righteousness.
Rom 6:13

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God

Rom 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Rom 6:19

I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

These verses speak of “yielding”. It has similar meaning to the yield signs on the road. There is usually no one to force you to yield, you do it by choice. In this case, we are talking about choosing to yielding to God’s will.

Choose to have one master, (what? Did you forget already that you are a creature? Created by God, *In his image?*)

James 3:12

Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Make Good habits. Make it a priority to start each day right. Begin with time in the word and then in prayer. Spending time in the word will help you to get to know God better. You will learn about him, about yourself and gain insight on living.

Read your Bible every day - thoughtfully, slowly. Ask God to speak to you through it. Begin with John's Gospel. Mark or memorise 1:12, 3:16, 5:24.

Pray every day. Simply talk to God your Father (reverently). He has promised to hear you. John 14:14. Thank Him for blessings. Tell Him your problems. Ask Him for help and strength. Say Grace for meals.

Keep short accounts with God about yourself and keep short accounts with others. Do not let things fester. Ask Tom Wright about eating big frogs.

Spend time with concerned caring Christians. Make friends with keen Christians, their friendship will help you. Ask about the Lord's Supper where you can remember your Lord. Luke 22:19-20, Acts 2:41-42, 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:26.

Be a friend.

Get an accountability partner for the rest of your life. Someone who you can trust and confide in and tell your concerns and thoughts to. Speak with them often. Ask each other how you are doing in prayer, in (you come up with your own things that affect your walk).

Some things God says;

Be not weary in well doing, Gal. 6:9, 2Thes. 3:13

Judge yourself 1st Cor 11:31

Whatsoever your hand findeth to do ..do it with all thy might. Ecc. 9:10

Make no provision for the flesh, Romans 13:14. Avoid anything that might hinder your Christian Progress. If in doubt ask yourself, "What would Christ do?" "Will it please or grieve Him?" "Can I pray about it and ask God to bless it?" If not, it's wrong. Proverbs 10:22. When tempted look for "the way of escape" and take it. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Don't rely on your feelings. Rest on God's Word. If you have received Christ you have "Become" a child of God. John 1:12. You have "Eternal" life. John 10:28. Remember - Union (relationship) with God your Father can't break. Communion or fellowship can be interrupted, but is restored on confession of sin. 1 John 1:9. The Work of Christ for me makes me Safe (Hebrews 10:10). The Word of Christ to me makes me Sure. John 6:37, 10:9, 27-29, 14-6. Read through the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs before other Old Testament Books. Keep marking, memorising verses that help you. Obey them. Remember this is God's Word to you.

Witness for Christ - by actions and words. Confess Him in Baptism. This is His command. Mark 16:15, 16, Acts 8:35-40, 40-48, Romans 6:4, John 14:15.

Serve Christ. Become involved in some definite work for God. Pray for your friends. Try to win them. If you are married, bring up your family for God. Have reading and Prayer together each day. Make it interesting. If children are young read them a Bible Story book. The Holy Spirit indwells you - count on His help and power. 1 Corinthians 6:19, Philippians 4:13. Christ will reward you at His coming. Expect Him at any minute. Revelation 22:12. Set a goal before you. Philippians 1:21-23.

Read over these suggestions often. Practice them, and with God's help success and fulfillment will be yours.

Appendix

The scriptures also have much to say about living. These are some scriptures concerned with the word live. We have arranged them into three groups. Salvation, Death and Life.

Salvation

1 Jn 4:9

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

1 Pet 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2 Cor 13:4

For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

Death

2 Pet 2:18

For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

2 Pet 2:6

And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

Phil 1:22

But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

Life

1 Pet 4:6

For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

1 Pet 4:2

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

James 4:15

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Heb 13:18

Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

Heb 12:9

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Heb 10:38

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

2 Tim 3:12

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2 Tim 2:11

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

1Thes 5:10

Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1Thes 3:8

For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

Phil 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Eph 6:3

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Gal 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Gal 3:12

And the law is not of faith: but, the man that does them shall live in them.

Gal 3:11

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.

Gal 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:19

For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

2 Cor 13:11

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

2 Cor 5:15

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Cor 5:15

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Cor 4:11

For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

1 Cor 9:14

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

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In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Prov 3:6

Rom 14:11

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Rom 14:8

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Rom 12:18

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Rom 10:5

For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

Rom 8:13

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Rom 8:13

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Rom 8:12

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

Rom 6:8

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Rom 6:2

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Rom 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

John 14:19

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

John 11:25

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 6:58

This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

John 6:57

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

John 6:51

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 5:25

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Luke 4:4

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Matt 4:4

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Hab 2:4

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Amos 5:14

Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

Amos 5:6

Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.

Amos 5:4

For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:

Deut 5:33

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deut 8:3

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Ps 104:33

I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Ps 116:2

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

Ps 118:17

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Ps 119:17

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

Ps 119:77

Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

Ps 119:116

Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.

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In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Prov 3:6

Ps 119:144

The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Ps 119:175

Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.

Ps 146:2

While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Prov 4:4

He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Prov 7:2

Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Prov 9:6

Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Prov 15:27

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

Ecc1 9:9

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Ezek 33:19

But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.