



Why The Christian Must be Christ-Like

Davidson Goodnews

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...they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

It is one thing to profess Christianity, it is another thing to be a Christian. It is one thing to call yourself a Christian and it is another thing to really know what it entails being a Christian. Today we see a lot of people professing Christianity but lack the power of it. What do I mean? They profess to be followers of Christ but they do not imitate Christ: they do not look like Christ; they do not have the Christ life. A Christian ought to practice the Christ life, grow in the imitation of Christ, and live being like Christ. That is what true Christianity is about, other than merely professing Christ, yet not belonging to him. When the authorities saw Peter and John, they took knowledge of them that they had been with Christ.

Christianity is a call to being like Christ. It is not a call to being like the world. 1 John 2:6 says, *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

As a Christian you have to conform to the image of Christ. Jesus, who is God, became man, to make you one with him, setting examples for you as His follower. "*My sheep hear my voice,*" Jesus said, "*I know them and they follow me.*" ¹ Turn to Christ completely today and walk in his ways so that you may be like Christ.

As a Christian it is expedient you evaluate yourself. Check whether you are living like Chris. Check whether you are growing in his image. You ought not to look like some thing else? Christ's sheep must not have goat's odour. You are his sheep; you can't have a goat's head. You must have the head of a sheep. If you are a Christian, live like a Christian. Exude Christ. Others have to see Christ in

¹ Jn 20:27

you. Move from being carnal to being spiritual, and continuously advance in spirituality.

You can't be a Christian and not know. Christianity is christlikeness. 1 John 4:17 says, *"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world"*. As Christ is so you are supposed to be in this world. You are the visible image of Christ. By maintaining Christ's virtues and values, you are manifesting Christ to a large extent. Your shortcomings and inadequacies as professing Christians should not make you redefine Christianity, but should challenge you to align with the definition of Christianity which is being like Christ. God has given you his word; he has given you his Holy Spirit; he has given you his grace; he has also given you his power; therefore stand up and live up to expectation: the world is waiting for the Christ in you. Friend, that is it. Any thing other than Christlikeness is not christianity of the bible.

4 REASONS WHY YOU HAVE TO BE CHRISTLIKE

As a Christian you ought to be Christlike

1) so that as light, your life can bring glory to God

Mathews 5:14-16, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven".

As a child of God, your life is expected to bring honour to God the Father. Let not that worthy name by which you are redeemed be evil spoken of. God is often glorified in your good works and virtuous living. God is greatly pleased with your right conduct. John the beloved wrote: *We know He heareth us because we do those things that please him.* And concerning Jesus our Saviour, the Father

said, *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*² Jesus said of himself, *I am the light of the world,*³ and to us his disciples he says, *Ye are the light of the world.*⁴ What he is, the same he made you. You are the light of the world, not the other way round.

Check carefully that your life honours God? God said in 1 Samuel 2:30, *Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*

Let your life bring honour and glory to God today. Whereas sinners would want to reproach you as a Christian, your good character speaks a volume. 1 Peter 2:12 *Having your conversation honest*

² Mt 3:17

³ Jn 9:5

⁴ Mt 5:14

among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

God demands that your life should give him glory because everything was created for His glory. The scripture says, *Thou hast created all things, and for thine pleasure they are and were created.*⁵ It was for his glory all things were created. It was for his glory you were saved from your sins. It was for his glory He made you his child. Did He make you His child so that you can represent the Devil? Didn't he make you His son or daughter so that people could see his glory in you? Live your life in such Christian way that through you people will give glory to God

⁵ Rev 4:11

rather than they saying, " look at that so called Christian; see what evil he is doing. Hear the wrong words that came out of his mouths." In this manner, they begin to compare and contrast professing Christians with the unbelievers, and cannot see the light. As a Christian, you ought to make the difference clear. Whereas they are carnal, you are spiritual. Whereas they are sinful, you are godly. Whereas they are defiled you are holy. Whereas they gratify the flesh, you glorify God. Whereas they live to please themselves, you live to please Christ. Whereas they pursue material things, you pursue after eternity. Whereas they are proud, you are humble. Whereas they look evil, you look good. Whereas they are unforgiving you are forgiving. That is what it means to live a life that glorifies God. You don't have to say you are a Christian; people should look at you and say you are a Christian. They should be able to trust you because of your integrity, your love, your truth, and your sincerity. Sinners don't have holiness, morality, truth, and

integrity; those are the virtues for which they, having found in you, will give glory to God. That bad man is looking for someone who will tell him the truth; who can be honest with his business; who can be sincere in dealings with him. Even the vilest man wants to hear the truth. Even the most wicked needs someone who will show him love. That is why the Christian is the one to be sorted after; he has the virtues of Christ which the world cannot have. The gospel that tells you integrity, morality, holiness, and truth, don't matter is not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The man Jesus Christ was a man of truth: no lie was found in him. He was a man of forgiveness, patience, peace, holiness, and righteousness. That was Jesus Christ the son of the living God, the God-man. God became man so that men can become sons of God. You must understand that as a Christian, when your life brings glory to God, through you sinners come to the realization of their sinful ways, and turn from their sinful acts.

2) so that the Prince of this world can find nothing of his in you

"Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me".John14:30

Who is the prince of this world? Satan. Jesus was saying that the prince of this world, which is Satan was coming but had nothing of his in him. There was nothing Satan could accuse Jesus of. There was nothing of Satan's property and identity with Jesus as the Amplified Bible puts it.

I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me. [He has nothing in common with Me; there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, and he has no power over Me.] John.14.30 (AMP)

Jesus had nothing that belonged to the Devil. If you still retain those things that belong to the devil, the

devil will hold on to them to lay claim on your life. You can't afford to risk your salvation!

Sin is one of the several legal grounds on which Satan, the Prince of this world prevails against believers. So long as the filthy garment was still on Joshua the high priest, Satan would not stop resisting him.⁶ If you still hold sinful values and walk in sin, Satan will say you have something of his in you.

Are you are still involved in clubbing, or are a member of a secret cult? Do you still have an unforgiving heart? Do you tell lies? Repent now! Let Satan lay no hold on your life. Judas who professed to be a disciple of Jesus had something of Satan in him -- he was a thief. He was stealing secretly from the treasury over which he was treasurer during Christ's earthly ministry. Satan saw that in him, entered him and he finally betrayed Jesus his Master. In the long run, however, he hanged

⁶ Zech 3:1-41

himself and died. Are you hypocritic? You have to be so much like Christ both in the open and in the secret: Satan ought to have nothing of his in you. If you are still struggling with any sinful habit, cry out to God to deliver you so that you can be free and Satan can have nothing of his in you. When Satan went to lay a charge on Job, he didn't have any tangible thing to accuse Job of, and as God would have it, Satan failed in the temptation. Let it be that Satan is tempting you while nothing of his is in you. Should he find anything of his in you while he hauls his trials, you will certainly be swallowed up. You having been bought out of evil ways, out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear son, Jesus Christ, must turn your back completely on the Devil. There must be a complete turning, touching all aspects of your life both inward and outward, in heart, character, and looks.

3)so that you can be fit for heaven

Ephesians 5:5, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

If you must make it to heaven you must be free from the things of your former life. You must walk in newness of life. Christlikeness is what makes you fit for heaven. Sadly, there is a version of Christianity today that offers salvation without repentance. This pseudo -Christianity has many adherents today. These 'new Christians' practice sin, and live in carnality, worldliness, and ungodliness. These worldly Christians make light of holiness. They don't want to talk about holiness and godliness. They just say, "live your life and praise God; God is not angry with you." They don't understand that they will not make it to heaven

that way because they are not fit for heaven! Who is a Christian? Taking our bearing from proverbs 23:26, we may define a Christian among other several definitions, as one who has given his heart to Christ, and whose eyes now observe Christ's ways.

The Christian is destined for heaven. The Bible calls Christians pilgrims and strangers in this world. Colossians 3:1 says, *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."* You must, therefore, understand the clarion call for you to set their affections on things above. Jesus Christ says, *"Lay up not treasures here on earth where moth and rot doth corrupt but lay for yourself treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rot corrupt, for where a man treasure is there his heart will be also"*. As a Christian you are heaven-focused, heaven-conscious, and heaven-bound. Heaven is your home. You are not living for the bread of this life

that perishes but for the life to come, in hope of Christ's second coming.⁷ We are all waiting for the rapture as true Christians: we have heaven as our home.⁸ Jesus said, "*I am not of this world and ye are not of this world*".⁹ He said, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven,*"¹⁰ and he also said, "*Strive to enter in at the strait gate*"¹¹ This world is under the power of Satan for the Bible calls him the god of this world. The Bible says this whole world lieth in the power of the wicked one.¹² It says the Christian has overcome the world, for greater is He that is in him than He that is in the World.¹³ So the Christian is one who is not of this world but is of heaven. You

⁷ Titus 2:13

⁸ Phil 3:20; Heb13:14

⁹ Jn 15:19; 17:14

¹⁰ Mt 6:33

¹¹ Lk 13:24

¹² 1Jn 5:19

¹³ 1Jn 4:4

are destined for the world to come. Jesus said, *"what shall it profit a man if he gains this whole world and lose his soul?"*¹⁴ A Christian is not one who is trying to gain this world, but one trying to keep his soul.

Christians are on a journey to heaven just as the children of Israel were on a journey to the promised land. This world is the wilderness experience as we are faced with an unchristian world. Understand that many are called but few are chosen,¹⁵ and that the majority perish. The worldlings don't have hope of eternal life. They are only living for this life. Only Christians live for the world to come, knowing that this world will be destroyed. Apostle Paul said, this thing I do, I put my body under so that I in the end will not be a castaway.¹⁶ Friend, you have to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Jesus

¹⁴ Mt 16:26

¹⁵ Mt 20:16

¹⁶ 1 Cor 9:27

Christ said many will say to him "Lord Lord in your name we cast out devil", then He will say to them "I know you not, you workers of iniquity".¹⁷ Those who are workers of iniquity will be cast into hell fire. Heaven is a place of holiness and truth. When lie was found in satan, he was cast down. Heaven is not a place for lies, uncleanness, pride, covetousness, and all other sins. Though a Christian's name is written in heaven, still he has to walk worthy of his salvation. Christlikeness makes us fit for heaven!

4) so that you can escape the coming destruction

Luke 17:26-33, "KJV:And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.27:They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.28:Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they

¹⁷ Like 13:27

bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;29:But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.30:Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.31:In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.32:Remember Lot's wife.33:Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."

2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be

dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 3:12, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

This whole world will be destroyed by fire. Just like Sodom and Gomorrah, that's how God will rain down fire on the last day. It will be a terrible day; the world and those still in it will be destroyed. Be a true Christian indeed and escape the destruction of this world. The world is coming to an end.

Judgement is coming, and judgement is so near: there will be no where to run to, and there will be nowhere to hide. You are either saved or you are faking it, examine yourself, friend. It is going to be a day of judgement and not a day of mercy. Live a righteous life, friend, and stand faultless in Christ on that great day. The good news is true Christians will be exempted from the condemnation, and be

raptured into heaven, but the world will face the harsh, hot judgement of an angry God. The message of eternity is still being preached; the eternal bell is still ringing. No one can be rapturable who has not as the Bible says put on Christ, or who has, as it were, put off Christ.

That this world will be destroyed is a certainty, and all sinners and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire. God had been waiting patiently. On the last day, His judgement will be released and it will be terrible and fierce. Those who are Christ's and have walked in his steps, where Christ is, there they will be also.¹⁸ R E Winsett's hymn resonates with some important truths in this regard:

Jesus is Coming Soon

R E Winsett (1942)

1. Troublesome times are here,
Filling men's hearts with fear,

¹⁸ Jn 12:26

Freedom we all hold dear
Now is at stake.
Humbling your heart to God,
Saved from the chastening rod,
Seek the way pilgrims trod,
Christians awake.

Refrain

*Jesus is coming soon
Morning or night or noon.
Many will meet their doom.
Trumpets will sound;
All of the dead shall rise
Righteous meet in the skies,
Going where no one dies,
Heavenward bound.*

2. Love of so many cold
Losing their home of gold,
This in God's Word is told
Evils abound.

When these signs come to pass,
Nearing the end at last,
It will come very fast.
Trumpets will Sound.

3. Troubles will soon be o'er
Happy forevermore;
When we meet on that shore,
Free from all care.
Rising up in the sky;
Telling the world goodbye,
Homeward then will fly
Glory to share.