

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Lesson 10 – Living for Christ

A NEW BEGINNING

1. Having obeyed the gospel (good news) and being baptized into Christ, I am a new CREATION now ALL things are in the past and all things are now NEW. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

2. I have made a commitment to God to GROW in the grace and knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

3. Part of growing spiritually is developing a sincere desire for the MILK of God's word. (1 Peter 2:2-3)

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Peter 2:2–3)

4. Spiritual growth must continue for a lifetime, therefore I will be FAITHFUL until my life is over. (Revelation 2:10b; Matthew 24:13)

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10b)

But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (Matthew 24:13)

5. God has blessed me with all things that pertain to LIFE and GODLINESS through the knowledge of Christ. (2 Peter 1:2-3)

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue... (2 Peter 1:2–3)

THINGS I MUST DO

6. As I live for Christ, I will strive to develop the "Christian graces" described in 2 Peter 1:5-8:
(1) VIRTUE (2) KNOWLEDGE (3) SELF-CONTROL (4) PERSERVERANCE
(5) GODLINESS (6) BROTHERLY KINDNESS (7) LOVE

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5–8)

7. I will develop a habit of meeting regularly with other Christians for worship, study, and fellowship.

a. God is seeking people to WORSHIP Him in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

b. I will meet every FIRST DAY of the WEEK to partake of the Lord's Supper. (Acts 20:7)

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7)

c. I will make a determination in my HEART and give an offering each week.
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

d. I will continue in the Apostle's DOCTRINE, (teaching) and FELLOWSHIP with other Christians.
(Acts 2:42)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

8. I will be careful to live a life filled with GOOD WORKS, meeting the needs of others.
(Titus 3:8, 14; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:18; Hebrews 10:24)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.
(Titus 3:8, 14)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
(Galatians 6:10)

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share... (1 Timothy 6:18)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works... (Hebrews 10:24)

a. I will not only look out for my own INTEREST, but also for the INTEREST of others.
(Philippians 2:3-4)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
(Philippians 2:3-4)

9. I must protect my personal reputation and the reputation of my congregation by abstaining from every form (appearance) of EVIL. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

- a. My lifestyle should reflect Christ, being an example and walking properly towards those OUTSIDE of the church. (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing. (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12)

THINGS I MUST NOT DO

10. I must not LOVE the world or the things in the world. (1 John 2:15-16)

- a. I must not give in to the lust of the FLESH, lust of the EYES, or the PRIDE of life.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 John 2:15–16)

11. I must not participate in the immoral behavior listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 because I have been WASHED, SANCTIFIED, and JUSTIFIED in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9–11)

12. I must not be greedy or obsessed with physical wealth because the LOVE of MONEY is the root of all kinds of evil and can cause me to stray from the FAITH. (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Timothy 6:6–10)

13. I must not give in to sinful desires and emotions as listed in Galatians 5:19-21. List at least four:
(1) ADULTERY (2) FORNICATION (3) UNCLEANNESS (4) LEWDNESS...

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy,

murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19–21)

Notes: Some clarification may be needed in this list of sinful behaviors. For instance, “fornication” is sexual immorality or any sexual activity outside the marriage relationship. Other clarifications are:

“uncleanness” = impurity

“lewdness” = sensuality, debauchery

“sorcery” = witchcraft, seeking the dark arts, astrology, fortunetelling

“revelries” = carousing, orgies, parties

The use of the phrase “and the like” indicates that all sinful behavior (wheter listed or not) is to be avoided by the Christian,

14. I must never call any person COMMON or UNCLEAN. (Acts 10:28)

Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. (Acts 10:28)

Notes: All partiality, bigotry, or racism is strictly prohibited from the Christian’s character.

Revisit James 2:1-13

a. God resists the PROUD but gives grace to the HUMBLE. (James 4:6)

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

15. I must not neglect (forsake) the ASSEMBLY of the church. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24–25)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Hebrews 13:15)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

16. Because I am a Christian, my citizenship is in HEAVEN. (Philippians 3:20)

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ... (Philippians 3:20)

17. I can have inexpressible JOY knowing that the end of my faith is the SALVATION of my soul.

(1 Peter 1:8-9)

(Jesus Christ) whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

(1 Peter 1:8–9)

18. If I continue to sow to the Spirit (spiritual service), I will reap EVERLASTING life. (Galatians 6:8)

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (Galatians 6:8)

19. I have a living HOPE because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and now have a reservation in HEAVEN.

(1 Peter 1:3-4)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you... (1 Peter 1:3–4)