

Lesson 10

What is Christian Living?

Paul said, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). Again, he said, "And we...are being transformed into his likeness..." (2 Corinthians 3:18). Paul also tells us, "to put off your old self...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22,24). Becoming a saved, born-again disciple is the "enrollment" part of being a student of Christ. Growing daily in his likeness is the school itself. This learning and changing process is Word and Holy Spirit led, inspired, and directed. The disciple's role is to learn and obey, "for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13). The purpose of this study is to expose new disciples to some basic, practical concepts of living and growing in Christ.

John 13:34

Review of the "One another" scriptures.

1. What insights did you gain from the "One another" scriptures from last week?

1 Peter 2:5, 9

The church is an assembly of priests.

1. What does "holy priesthood" mean? *Holy means set apart or reserved for God. Priests are intercessors to men on God's behalf.*
2. What are we to do (v.5)? *Offer spiritual sacrifices to God.*
3. Who do we belong to? *God.*
4. What else are we to do (v.9)? *Declare His praises.*
5. What are we called out of? *Darkness. What is that? Spiritual lostness. Hiding and denying our sin.*
6. What are we called into? *His light. What is that? Spiritual enlightenment, salvation, and openness about our sin.*

Paul's Letter to the Church

Ephesians 4:11-16

Growing up.

1. Who did God appoint to lead in spiritual growth and to equip Christians for service (vv.11-12)? *Today, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.*
2. What should each of us strive for? *Maturity in Christ.*
3. Who do we grow into (v.15)? *Christ.*
4. What is each part's (person's) role (v.16)? *To be joined with all the other parts and to do its work.*

Ephesians 4:17-24 *Converted living.*

1. How are we not to live (vv.17-19)? *We are not to live the futile life of an unsaved person who lives in darkness.*
2. How are we to live (vv.20-24)? *Put off the old self and put on the new self being made like God. Live in light.*

Ephesians 4:25-28

1. Where do we begin (v.25)? *Stop the façades and falsehood. Get honest.*
2. **John 3:19-21** - To come into the light, we become open, exposed, and honest.
3. Why is handling anger correctly so critical to living as a Christian (vv.26-27)? *Unresolved anger gives the devil a place in our hearts. Satan will divide us from Christ and his church.*
4. Does God expect all His children to not only work in the church, but to work to support themselves as well as help take care of the needy? *Yes.*

Ephesians 4:29-32

1. What behaviors must we get rid of? *Unwholesome, useless talk. Bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, every form of malice. What are these?*
2. How do we grieve the Holy Spirit within us? *When we do things that are contrary to His nature and will.*
3. How are we to treat each other? *With kindness, compassion, and a Christ-like, forgiving spirit.*

Ephesians 5:1-2 *Imitating God.*

1. Is our goal as a Christian simply to be good, or to be better than the world? *No.*
2. What is our goal? *To imitate God—to be disciples of Christ.*
3. What does that “look like?” *We live lives of love and sacrifice just as Christ did.*

Ephesians 5:3-14 *Living in the light.*

1. How does God feel about immorality and impurity in and among us? *They're totally incompatible with God and His church.*
2. What other sins does Paul mention? *Greed, obscenity, and foolish talk and coarse joking. What are these?*
3. How are disciples deceived about these sins (v.6)? *By preachers and teachers who license misbehavior.*
4. What comes to “disobedient” disciples (v.6)? *God's wrath if there's not brokenness, confession, and repentance.*
5. How should we then interact with the world in its sin (vv.11-14)? *Have nothing to do with it.*
6. **1 Corinthians 15:33-34** - relate to this passage. *Deceived Christians think they can be constantly with worldly people and be unaffected. It is sin. It demonstrates their ignorance of God's nature and thus their own spirit nature.*
7. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** - relate. *Being yoked to the worldly is a total contradiction of Christian living. We are to be in the world to spread God's message, but we are not to be of the world (John 17:14-17).*

Ephesians 5:15-20 *Christian interaction and celebration.*

1. How should we approach our opportunities to interact with our brothers and sisters in Christ?
Be careful.
2. What is God's will (vv.17-18)? *For us to not be drunk on wine but rather with his Spirit.*
3. What does this mean? *Just as alcohol uninhibits our bodies and minds, so his Spirit uninhibits and frees us to minister, worship, and celebrate Christ.*
4. What will we do (vv.19-20)? *We will sing to one another and worship and thank God.*

Hebrews 12:28-29 *The subject of worship.*

1. What is worship? *It has two general meanings in the Bible.*
 - a. *to express reverence, thanksgiving, and praise (proskuneo, Gr.)*
 - b. *to serve (latreuo, Gr.)*

We worship God through praise and through service.
2. How do we express reverence, etc.? *We do this privately through personal worship and devotion. We do it publicly through Christian assembly.*
3. **Romans 12:1-2** - How do we serve? Note the connection of giving our bodies and spiritual worship. *Everything we do to help others or to obey God is service if we do it for God (rather than out of selfish motivations).*
4. **Matthew 25:40** - How does Jesus view our Christian activities toward others?

Ephesians 5:21 *Submission.*

1. What does submit mean? *Generally, to be subject to. The word used, hupotasso (Gr.), is primarily a military term that means to rank under. Hence, it means to treat other Christians as if they are ranked above you (Romans 12:10).*
2. When do we submit—when others deserve it or are worthy of it, or all the time? *All the time. We submit until we can't anymore.*
3. Why do we submit? *Out of reverence for Christ. The basis of our submission is not ourselves or others, but Christ.*

Ephesians 5:22-6:9 *A New Pattern of Relationship—Submitting.*

1. **5:22-24** - Wives to husbands - Submit to husbands as the church does to Christ.
2. **5:25-33** - Husbands to wives - Submit (love) as Christ did to the church.
3. **6:1-3** - Children to parents - Obey in the Lord.
4. **6:4** - Parents (fathers) to children - Don't exasperate. Rather, bring them up to honor Christ.
5. **6:5-9** - Workers (slaves) to boss (owners) - Submit to as though serving the Lord.
6. **6:9** - Boss (owners) to employees (slaves) - Treat (submit) as your master treats you.

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Homework

Reading the Word

Ephesians 6:10-20

1. Who is our spiritual battle against (vv.11-12)?
2. Why then, should we be strong in the Lord rather than in ourselves or others?
3. Write down each part of the full armor of God and consider why each part is important.
4. What is the Spirit's weapon in our lives (v.18)?

Looking Ahead

Spend some time with your teacher praying about the future of your spiritual walk. Pray that your eyes may be opened to the Spirit working in the world around you. Pray that you may take advantage of opportunities God has given you to be a disciple of Christ to others. Pray that God will reveal his plans to you that you may continue your ministry.