

## Christians Part Two

Due to the length of this topic the lesson begun in Christians Part One will now continue and conclude as the lesson, Christians Part Two.

### 5) A Christian is a positive influence.

**Matthew 5:16** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” A Christian is living a life in which their character and qualities will stand out and be noticed by their peers over time. Not because they are boastful, but simply because they are different than most people in what they value, in what they do and do not do with their time.

**Ephesians 5:8-11** “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” A Christian will not be involved in immoral or evil things. The focus of a Christian is on leading a life pleasing to God and trying to teach others about the Bible.

**Philippians 2:15** “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” A Christian is not perfect. They make mistakes but they also repent of wrong-doing and strive to correct their errors. Some people will notice a Christian and want to know more about God. Some people will be offended by Christians and not like them. However, a Christian does not simply blend in with the world living in such a way no one knows they follow Christ. This is not to say, a Christian will be saying, “Look at me,” but rather just their lifestyle will tend to be noticed by others as being a different way of life than most people. Hopefully, this will give a Christian opportunities to share God’s word with others.

### 6) A Christian works on being a better Christian.

**Psalms 1:1-3** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” A Christian tries to study God’s word to better understand it and apply it to how they live their daily lives. It is not enough to open the Bible in Sunday morning worship service and expect to grow as a child of God or be pleasing to Him.

**Matthew 5:6** “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” A Christian wants to know and grow in God’s word. The more a Christian grows, the more they want to grow. There is not a time a Christian can say they know all they need to know, or they have finished growing. Growing as a child of God is a lifetime journey.

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” A Christian understands there is no such thing as your “truth” or my “truth” there is only THE TRUTH! Salvation comes through God’s Word only, and no other source.

**Galatians 5:22-25** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” A Christian will spend a lifetime growing to walk more accurately in Christ’s footsteps. As they grow in knowledge that is applied to daily life the Christian’s life will show many areas of growth to become a better stronger Child of God.

7) A Christian opposes error.

**Matthew 15:9** “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” If a Christian hears the Word of God being taught in error, they will attempt to teach others what the Bible truly teaches. This is not done in anger or rudely but out of love that their fellow man might be saved. We all needed someone to teach us the Word of God and no Christian is perfect. There is no reason to be unkind when trying to help others better understand the Bible. Anger and rudeness will not convert others to Christianity and might just turn them away.

**Ephesians 5:10-11** “Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” A Christian will use the scriptures to see if THE TRUTH is being taught. If error is found they will lovingly try to correctly teach others and if someone refuses to hear a Christian will not take part in another’s error and allow themselves to be drawn down the wrong path.

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” A Christian will prove through the Word of God if error or truth is being taught and accept what is correct according to those scriptures.

**Hebrews 5:12-14** “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” A Christian will continue to grow in knowledge and know right teachings from wrong teachings. They will know the difference between error and truth to better help themselves be a stronger Christian as well as aiding fellow Christians.

8) A Christian controls their tongue.

**Matthew 12:33-37** “Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak,

they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” The things in one’s mind will eventually come out of one’s mouth. If curse words or some form of nasty language is coming out of one’s mouth then it must be in one’s mind. If false or corrupt teachings are in one’s mind then that will eventually come out of one’s mouth. However, if one fills their minds with Christ’s teachings and clean thoughts what do you think will eventually come out of one’s mouth? A Christian’s mind should be filled with the Word of God and clean and wholesome things making it very difficult for worldly filth to come out of their mouth. What we put in our minds and fill our thinking with will come out of our mouth and be seen in our lives.

**Ephesians 4:29** “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” While no one, even a long-time solid Christian, is perfect. A Christian’s speech should be truthful, clean, and doing one’s best to communicate God’s Word to other people. A Christian’s mouth will not be filled with lies, nasty language, or teaching error to others.

**Colossians 4:6** “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” A Christian does not know everything and they do not have all the answers to all Bible questions. However, they should know why they are a Christian and be able to share that with others, as well as be able to help others learn how to become Christians. A Christian teaching others should be doing so with love not arrogance.

**James 1:26** “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.” Believe it or not we can learn to control our tongues and we do not have to flippantly pop off and say the first thing that comes to mind. A Christian should be striving to control their tongue so that most of the time it is bridled.

**James 3:5-8** “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” Wow can we start huge fires with just a few nasty or mean and hurtful words or what! Our tiny little tongues can start fights and destroy relationships. A Christian must be working to engage their minds before their mouths, to think before they speak. Not speaking in anger and not wanting to harm others with mean words is not always easy and sometimes we all fail. A Christian should be learning to rarely let their own tongue get out of hand.

9) A Christian cares about the lost of the world.

**Matthew 28:18-20** “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” A Christian does not keep the Word of God to themselves. Jesus commanded His followers to

spread the Gospel. While a Christian has no control over another person's free will to accept or reject Jesus's teaching, they must be making the effort to teach others.

**Acts 2:40** "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." A Christian must also be sure they are keeping themselves in line with Christ's teaching as well. One must save one's self before they can attempt to help others.

**Romans 10:1** "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." A Christian should have the desire to teach others the Gospel so that they can be saved. While it is true many people will reject Jesus's teaching some will not and you never really know who will or will not.

**Galatians 6:1** "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." A Christian should be willing to lovingly help another Christian that has fallen. Someday it may be you or me that needs someone's help. A Christian should desire to see a fallen brother or sister in Christ restored.

#### 10) A Christian must remain faithful.

**Matthew 10:22** "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." One can not win a race until it is over. The same is true for a Christian. One must remain a faithful Christian until death, even though sometimes it may be hard. However, an eternal home in Heaven is a reward that is waiting only for Christians that have endured to the end.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** "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." No matter how hard it might be sometimes to be a Christian, it will be worth it. A home in Heaven is waiting for the faithful Christian, making all their efforts worthwhile.

**Ephesians 4:14-16** "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." A faithful Christian should be grounded enough that not every new false teaching that comes along draws them away from Christ. The Christian should continue to grow and see through false teachings, and lovingly teach others Christ's true doctrine.

**Revelation 2:10** "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." If a Christian is faithful unto death a reward of life in Heaven eternally waits, this is not so for any non-Christian.

#### Conclusion

Hopefully, in this two-part lesson we have all come to better understand what it truly means to be a Christian and that there is much more to it than the world at large generally thinks. During these lessons I hope you have considered whether or not you are a Christian. If you are that is great, stay faithful. If not, I hope you will want to become a Christian and change your life into one that is pleasing to God.