

The Cost of Living a Christian Life!



Lesson One:

This lesson may not come across, based on its title, to be very popular. However, the principles taught here cannot be ignored if you want to truly walk with God.

How important is your relationship with God, to you? Somewhat important? Very important? More or less important than a relationship? More or less important than a job? More or less important than what people perceive of you?

If you had to trade walking with God for something, what would it be? (Is there is anything more valuable to you than living for God?)

Is it possible to live for God fully and completely and still have balance in every part of our lives? (Marriage, family, school, work, entertainment, social, etc...)

Can living for God become problematic if you let yourself become obsessed with it?

A crucified life:

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Galatians 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.

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

To live a healthy “physical” life, we must have a balance of good food, exercise, rest, fun and work.

1. If we have a steady diet of potato chips and soda, we will be overweight and likely to die early.
2. If we balance good habits and things we enjoy and need, we can live well.
3. I like my chocolate chip cookies, but I need to eat fish, salads, and healthy foods as well.

To live a spiritually healthy life, what are some of the main ingredients I need to have and why?

When we live a “crucified life” we are giving ourselves to His will, and living a holy and sanctified life.

What is another word for “crucified”? _____

We are _____ in trespasses and sins.

So for the Christian to be “dead”, how would that translate since we are clearly “alive”?

Words are used throughout the New Testament like, strive, press, run, walk, fight, under subjection, follow, submit, persevere, trust, lean, do, etc...

In what ways are they different, and in what ways are they similar?

The crucified life is totally committed to following Jesus.

1. To be more like Him.
2. To act like Him.
3. To love like Him.
4. To think like Him.

In what areas can you be more like Jesus?

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Paul says – “I follow after... That I may apprehend... Because I am apprehended...”

Definition – Apprehended - To take into custody; arrest by legal warrant or authority:

Discuss the meaning of this: **“I take into custody that which has arrested me.”**

Philippians 3:12 (MSG) I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.

Philippians 3:12 (GW) It's not that I've already reached the goal or have already completed the course. But I run to win that which Jesus Christ has already won for me.

Philippians 3:12 (NLT) I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

How do we focus our lives on Jesus while maintaining “normal lives”? (By normal I mean we are not monks nor fanatics).

Is it “OK” to have a hunger for God, and passion to serve God, to the point of everything else taking second place?

Living a “crucified life” is not for the faint hearted.

This Christian journey will have potholes, disappointments, rough roads, and detours.

The journey:

Any journey starts with the first step.

Are you glad you are not “what you used to be”? _____

Here’s a challenge: Are you striving for what you “need to be”?

Have you thought about what God wants you to be?

Don’t blame the preacher if you are not growing!

So much of our walk with God is “personal”.

The preacher can’t pray your prayers and do your devotions.

You can have the finest banquet set before you, but, if you’re not partaking, whose fault is it?

Most of your Christian walk is outside the walls of the church.

If you treat Jesus like an acquaintance, don't expect to get to "know Him" very well.

What is a "Christian"?

Maybe an even more important question is: **What do you think of Christ?**

What will you do with Jesus?

Jesus is "the Word made flesh" (John 1).

Do you think that when the Bible tells us to hide the "Word" in our hearts it has anything to do with Jesus? (Ps. 119:11, Ro. 6:6)

Jesus is the incarnate "Word of God". He is the "Word made flesh".

If you believe in Jesus, you will believe and follow His moral teachings.

If you believe in Jesus you will be committed to sharing Him with others.

If you believe in Jesus you will walk with Him.

Jesus paid the price so we could be saved. *But there is also a price we must pay.* The Christian life is not a free ride.

Have you ever looked at the "do's" in the N.T.? There are several things we need to be "do"-ing.

Do good to them that hate you.

Pray for them that despitefully use you.
Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven.
Do to others what you want then to do for you.
Whoever will do God's will is His brother or sister.
If you through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.
Rejoice with them that rejoice, weep with those that weep.
Whether we eat or drink, do it to the glory of God.
Let us do good to all men.
Do all things without murmurings and disputing.

Peter:

One moment Peter is proclaiming his allegiance to Jesus:

Mark 14:29-31 ²⁹ But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet *will* not I. ³⁰ And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. ³¹ But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

Next Peter hacked off a servant's ear.

Then Peter is "following afar off" (Mk. 14:54).

Thankfully he came to his senses and became a powerful, faithful man of God.

The Cross:

Luke 14:25-33 ²⁵ And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶ If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And **whosoever doth not bear his cross**, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? ²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king,

sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³²Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. ³³So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

What is your cross? Only you can answer this – for yourself.

Is there a cross “you” need to carry? _____

What does it mean to be “crucified with Christ”?

Are you willing to pay the price for being a Christian? _____

Do you know there may be suffering, trial, and hardship involved? _____

Do you know that although there is a price we must pay, the benefits are out of this world?
