



The Essentials: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine
Class #10 – Christian Living

I. An Introduction to Christian Living

- a. James 2:26 – *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”*
- The Christian faith is not exclusively a system of doctrines and teachings to be confessed, but it is also a genuine lifestyle and attitude to be lived
 - If you have truly received the salvation that is offered by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone – there is going to be genuine evidence and spiritual fruit seen in your life
 - Salvation drastically changes our lives, our daily living, our practices, our way of thinking, our manner of speech, our mentality, etc.
 - 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.”*
 - Christians are not saved by good works, but they are saved unto good works, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* Cf. **Ephesians 2:8-10**
- b. Therefore, to end our course I want to share with you *eight things* you should be practicing, pursuing, and promoting (by the grace of God) as a follower of the Lord Jesus – let’s take a brief look at what Christian living consists of:

II. 1st – “Christian Living consists of Remaining in the Gospel”

- a. Romans 1:16-17 – *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”*
- The first thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of *Remaining in the Gospel*
 - What do I mean by that? Simply this, as a Christian you never outgrow, outlive, and move on from the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - You never come to a point in your Christian walk where you no longer need, depend, and trust in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Faithfully remain in the Gospel, boldly stand upon the Gospel, daily preach to yourself the Gospel, constantly believe in the Gospel – the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the key to Christian Living...
 - You are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone – your acceptance by God is completely, entirely, and totally on the basis of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing will ever change that
- b. Therefore, the first thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Remaining in the Gospel of Jesus Christ – “The just shall live by faith”

III. **2nd – “Christian Living consists of Fellowshiping with a Local Church”**

- a. 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.”
- i. The second thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Fellowshiping with a Local Church
 - ii. As a Christian, you should be in constant fellowship and communion with a local body of believers at a local church
 - iii. The local church must not be neglected, ignored, nor disregarded, but it must be a priority in our lives
 - iv. We must be faithful in our attendance and loyal in our commitment to a local church – there are no lone-rangers in the Kingdom of God, but we all need a local church
 - v. The church is a place of instruction, a place of growth, a place of correction, a place of encouragement, a place of fellowship, a place of comfort, a place of prayer, a place of worship, a place of service, etc. – and it is a place where you and I need to constantly be as Christians
- b. Therefore, the second thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Fellowshiping with a Local Church – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together”

IV. **3rd – “Christian Living consists of Studying the Word of God”**

- a. 2 Timothy 2:15 – “Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- i. The third thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Studying the Word of God
 - ii. The study of the Word of God must be a top priority in the life of the Christian – we must read it, learn it, meditate upon it, obey it, etc.
 - iii. Growth, maturity, and development in your Christian walk will come through the study of the Word of God – “...*desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.*” Cf. **1 Peter 2:2b**
 - iv. So many blessings comes from the study of the Word of God, therefore, it must be a priority, passion, and pursuit in the life of every Christian
 - v. And when you study the Word of God study it *faithfully* (everyday), *systematically* (work your way through both Testaments), *expectantly* (pen and paper in hand), *humbly* (seek out reliable teachers and ask questions), and *prayerfully* (ask the Holy Spirit to bring illumination)
- b. Therefore, the third thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Studying the Word of God – “Study to show thyself approved unto God”

V. **4th – “Christian Living consists of Spending Time in Prayer”**

- a. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing”
- i. The fourth thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Spending Time in Prayer
 - ii. Often times prayer is neglected and ignored by Christians – many believers find it easy to limit their prayer time to a few words before a meal or to the corporate prayers offered at church on Sunday
 - iii. Yet, this should not be so, as Christians our life should be consumed with prayer – we need to discipline ourselves to commune with God in prayer
 - iv. What oxygen is to our bodies so prayer is to our souls – just as oxygen is vital to our natural life, so prayer is vital to our spiritual life

- v. And when you prayer take the time to acknowledge your relationship with God, “***Our Father in heaven,***” take the time to acknowledge your reverence towards God, “***Hallowed by Your Name,***” take the time to acknowledge your requests before God, “***Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one,***” and take the time to respond in worship unto God, “***For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***”
- b. Therefore, the fourth thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Spending Time in Prayer – “Pray without Ceasing”

VI. **5th – “Christian Living consists of Supporting the Local Church”**

- a. 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.”
 - i. The fifth thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Supporting the Local Church
 - ii. As a Christian, it is important that you find a local church and be faithful in your support of that local church
 - iii. Your support should be in the form of faithful attendance, service in ministry, and giving of tithes and offering
 - iv. There is a spiritual support that we offer to our local church (prayers, Christian service, etc.) and also a practical support (tithes, offerings, etc.)
 - v. Don’t neglect your responsibility to support and sponsor your local church – for it is “***more blessed to give than to receive***” Cf. **Acts 20:35**
- b. Therefore, the fifth thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Supporting the Local Church – “God loves a cheerful giver”

VII. **6th – “Christian Living consists of Pursuing Holiness”**

- a. 1 Peter 1:15-16 – “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct. Because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”
 - i. The sixth thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Pursuing Holiness
 - ii. The word *holy* is the translation of the Greek word *hagios* which carries the idea of being “*set apart, separated, or different*”
 - iii. As Christians, we have been called to live a life entirely separated, set apart, and different from this polluted world system
 - iv. We are “*in the world*” but we are “*not of the world*” – and this must be seen in our conversation, actions, thoughts, apparel, hobbies, etc.
 - v. Holiness is not an option for believers but it is a command, God has commanded us to be holy for He is holy, therefore, holiness must be our chief pursuit
- b. Therefore, the sixth thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Pursuing Holiness – “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord”

VIII. **7th – “Christian Living consists of Demonstrating Love”**

- a. 1 Peter 1:22 – “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love on another fervently with a pure heart.”
 - i. The seventh thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Demonstrating Love

- ii. Love for one another is the supreme demonstration we can show a lost, dying world that we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, “***By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.***” Cf. **John 13:35**
 - iii. We must not merely love in words, emotions, or thoughts, but we must demonstrate love in actions and works
 - iv. It is not easy to love others, but through the work of regeneration, God has changed our hearts and nature and He has enabled us to love others fervently with a pure heart
 - v. Salvation makes it possible to demonstrate genuine love to others – “...***the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.***” Cf. **Romans 5:5b**
- b. Therefore, the seventh thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Demonstrating Love – “*Love one another fervently*”

IX. **8th – “Christian Living consists of *Depending upon the Holy Spirit*”**

- a. Acts 1:8 – “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*”
- i. The eighth thing we want to consider concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Depending upon the Holy Spirit
 - ii. As Christians, we need to constantly seek out by faith the baptism with the Holy Spirit
 - iii. We desperately need to the ministry, work, and power of the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon our lives
 - iv. He will give you the strength, power, energy, discipline, and ability you need to live out the Christian walk and share the Christian faith
 - v. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to be witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ – sharing our faith is apart of Christian living and the Holy Spirit is the One who gives us the power to fulfill this responsibility – learn to completely depend and rely upon Him
- b. Therefore, the eighth and final thing we see concerning Christian Living is that it consists of Depending upon the Holy Spirit – “*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the LORD of hosts*”

X. **As we come to the end of our course, I pray that the Lord will richly bless you and cause you to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

- a. I hope that this course has been a blessing to your life and that you are leaving it more familiar with the essential doctrines of the Christian faith and more in love with the central figure of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ – Amen!