

JUNE 28, 2020

## HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BY NOT LIVING "THE CHRISTIAN LIFE"

Galatians 2:19-21, 5:22-26



**1. No one can live the Christian life in his/her own strength.** *I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. 20 Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I am not going to go back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.*

– Galatians 2:19-21 (The Message Translation)

**Wrong Path = keeping rules, working harder to make God happy, wanting what I want.**

**Wrong Result = anger and no love are indicators of our failure of living the Christian life.**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.* – Galatians 5:22-26

**2. The Holy Spirit does not indwell us to –**

- a. Pray for US (Romans 8:26)
- b. Convict us of our sins (1 John 3:20)
- c. Guide US (Romans 8:14)
- d. Create better behavior-sanctification (1 Corinthians 6:11, 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- e. Teach US (1 Corinthians 2:9-12, 1 John 2:27)

**3. The Holy Spirit lives in us so that Christ may live through us to touch others.** *Be filled with the Spirit.* – Ephesians 5:18

**4. We must come to believe and embody the truth –**

- a. Adjust yourself to God's presence
- b. The life you live is no longer your own
- c. Your life is His. Believe and follow God into the unknown (Hebrews 11:8).

**5. Everything is yielded to him.** I no longer have dreams, goals, and desires that are exclusively my own.

**6. The key to the Christian life is to allow Christ to live His life through you.**

- a. We learn it as we serve Him.
- b. Relinquish control.
- c. Live by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- d. When we struggle, we're to turn towards Jesus in dependence upon Him.
- e. At the same time, study the Word to be redirected to think Biblically.
- f. Then accept God's truth and leave behind messages we've taken from our upbringing and culture that do not match His perspective.
- g. The final stage is what's known as the exchanged life. We embrace the truth that the only way to live the Christian life is to let the Holy Spirit live Christ's life through us. We make a commitment to God to surrender selfish desires and seek only what He wants. Once we make this exchange, we'll experience more of the freedom and joy Jesus promised to His followers.

# LifeGroup Worksheet

JUNE 28, 2020

*This sheet is to be completed DURING your LifeGroup session*

Scripture Reference – **Galatians 2:19-21, 5:22-26**

**1. Reflect-** *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

**2. Read-** **Galatians 2:19-21, 5:22-26** *both with your group and alone.*

**3. Engage and Explore-** *What do you think God was communicating to his people when this was first written? Try to answer at least one questions below.*

- a. Has someone ever called you a “crummy Christian” or hypocrite? Why? What are your thoughts?
- b. “No one can live the Christian life in his or her own strength.” Explain this in your own words.
- c. The Holy Spirit lives in us so that Christ may live through us to touch others. Talk about how that works and how you’ve seen this work (or not work) in your life.
- d. How does Christ live our His life through Christians (2:20)? If righteousness were possible by keeping the Law, why would the cross have been absolutely useless (2:21)?

**4. Connect-** *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. Why is it easier for Christians to live by the rules and traditions than by faith?
- b. The key to the Christian life is to allow Christ to live His life through you. Read the following out loud. Where do you need or want to grow? Share with the group what is challenging in this and what is easier for you in this list.
  - We learn it as we serve Him.
  - Relinquish control.
  - Live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
  - When we struggle, we turn toward Jesus in dependence upon Him.
  - At the same time we study the Word to be redirected to think Biblically.
  - Accept God’s truth and leave behind messages we’ve taken in from our upbringing and culture that do not match His perspective.
  - The final stage is what’s known as the exchanged life.

**5. Silent Meditation-** *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God’s truth to your life.*

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**6. Share-** *Key insights with your group from question #5.*

**7. Close in Prayer-** *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook.*