

Studies in Christianity The Christian Lifestyle #1

S#1.

General guidelines

S#2.

Text : **Matthew 10: 21–40**

A. As we started this study of the basics of Christianity :

1. We started by acknowledging that the life of a Christian is a challenge.
 - a. It is not always easy.
 - b. It requires a consistent effort. (*More than just assembling each Sunday.*)
2. Christianity requires one change in many ways.
 - a. It requires that we change the way we talk and sometimes who we talk with.
 - b. It may require we change where we go and who we go with.
 - * Christianity required me to change peer groups twice and even to move.
3. Christianity takes over our life or it is not in even a real part of it.
 - a. Jesus said, “You must be born again.” ... *Become a different person.*
 - b. The Holy Spirit said,
 - II Cor. 5: 17** – Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature;
the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
 - c. To the Roman brethren the Spirit wrote ;
 - 1) **Rom. 12: 2a** – And do not be conformed to this world, but
be transformed by the renewing of your mind, ...
 - 2) The Christian must develop a whole different world view.
 - 3) Not being conformed makes the Christian out of step with society.

S#3.

B. One way the Christian is out of step with society is that he loves others.

S#4.

1. Most people reciprocate love ... I’ll treat you nice if you treat me nice.
2. Christians treat people properly regardless of how they are treated.
3. This very often leads to the Christian being taken advantage of.

C. Few people like to feel as though they are different or unacceptable.

It is the nature of man to want to fit in and to feel accepted.

1. Psychiatrists say this is part of man’s survival instinct – *security of the herd*.
2. People wear ridiculous looking outfits so they will be in style.
3. Some even do immoral things because of social pressure.
4. Young people feel everything more strongly ... *especially peer pressure*.

I. Jesus made it clear that Christianity would NOT make one popular.**S#5.****A. Jesus clearly forewarned all who would follow Him.****S#6.**

1. **Matt. 10: 22** – You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.
2. Becoming a Christians will not make you popular among your friends.
 - a. You will not be able to **do** some of the things they like to do.
 - b. You will not approve of some of the places they **go**.
 - c. They will start to feel increasingly less comfortable around you.
 - d. As they begin to feel less approved of, they will distance themselves.
3. Jesus warns that even our close family members will oppose our new life.
 - a. Parents and children
 - b. Siblings
 - c. In-laws

B. The Spirit also warns us that our commitment to Christ will cause marital strife.

1. If the Christian's faith is not a problem for the relationship, he / she is fortunate.
I Cor. 7: 12 – But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife **S#7.**
 who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. **13** And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.
 - a. Notice : He does not specify that they must be happy together or not dispute it.
 - b. Mixed marriages sail on troubled waters and must survive many storms.
2. If the non-Christian refused to live with a newly converted Christian, it is grounds for a divorce.
 - a. One is not required to forfeit his soul to maintain an earthly union.
 - b. Divorce is NEVER one's first course, but done after all else fails.
 - c. When a Muslim is converted, his / her mate may kill him in his sleep.

C. The Spirit warns that Christians should anticipate persecution.**S#8.**

1. **II Tim. 3: 12** – Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
2. If we are doing our best to live godly and receive no opposition, what is wrong ?
 - a. Are we hiding our light under a bushel ?
 - b. Are we so ashamed of the gospel of Christ that we are not sharing it ?

- c. Is our life not as godly as we'd like to think it is ?
- d. After many years as a Christian, we have only "Christianized" friends.
- 3. The Spirit says. **"evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse,."**
 - a. We can certainly observe that to be the case in America today.
 - b. Religious freedoms that we've long taken for granted are increasingly under threat.
 - c. Those who seek to live godly are under ever increasing pressure.

D. What can we do, we're not permitted to be militant in defense of the gospel. S9.

- 1. We must live the Christian life as a lamp on a stand. Be **"the light of the world."**
- 2. Assertively advocate for Christian principles in the public sphere.
- 3. Be aggressive in sharing the gospel with everyone with whom we interact.
- * *There will be no relief as long as we are a dwindling minority.*

II. Christians must live their faith publically.

S#10.

A. Jesus personally commands us to be public with our religion.

- 1. **Matt. 5: 14 – You are the light** of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15** nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16 Let your light shine before men** in such a way that they may **see** your good works, and **glorify** your Father who is in heaven. **S#11.**
- 2. You are **the** light of the world
 - a. Jesus did NOT say you are "A" light in the world. "You are **the** light."
 - b. Only Christians provide the light that saves people.
- 3. Let your light **shine before men**
 - a. This is a direct imperial command ... **Thou shalt let thy light shine.**
 - b. It is just as binding as ... repent ... be baptized ... thou shalt not kill, adultery,
- 4. may **see** your good **works**
 - a. Our life has to be **seen**
 - b. This does not mean we should be self-aggrandizing.
- 5. **glorify your Father who is in heaven.**
 - a. The public must link what you do to God.
 - b. What you do must honor God to HIS glory, **not your own.**
 - c. How do we do that ?

B. One of the primary functions of the Christian life is to exalt Christ.

1. **Phil. 1: 20** – according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. S#12.

- a. How was God exalted in his body ... by the way he conducted himself.
- b. Someone is always watching so how a Christian reacts to stressful situations.
- c. It is easy to live like a Christian when all is going well, but when being abused ...

2. Christ expects our daily life to reflect to HIS glory.

- a. **I Cor. 6: 19** – Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. S#13.
- b. The Christian's body is the body of Christ on the earth.
- c. THEREFORE, the Christian must use his body as Jesus used His.

C. The Christian must always be one guard not to do anything that gives the impression that he is ashamed to reflect Jesus in his actions.

1. **Luke 9:26** – For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. S#14.
2. The Christian must be bold enough to identify himself with Christ.

D. Many try to avoid being identified with Christ hoping to avoid scrutiny.

1. God knows the real you so He doesn't anticipate perfection - why Jesus is interceding
2. It is good for others to see your peace even while you struggle to overcome.

III. Becoming a living sacrifice is a progressive action.S#15.**A. The Christian sacrifices himself body and soul, but it's a living sacrifice.**

1. The Spirit explains that one "reasonable service" in response to salvation Is to surrender himself to God ... to sacrifice himself to God. S#16.

Rom. 12: 1 – Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

- a. To present one's "body" is to present his **life** to God.
- b. For it to be a "living" sacrifice it must be constantly offered while it lives.
- c. It can only be a "holy" sacrifice while being cleansed by the blood of Jesus. –

B. We've seen that to live a life sacrificed to God involves a lifelong process.

1. **II Pet.1: 5** – Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith **S#17.** supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, **6** and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, **7** and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.
 - a. **applying all diligence** ... God expects for us to have to work at it.
 - b. **moral excellence** ... Moral values change as one's mind is transformed.
 - c. **knowledge** ... When diligence is applied to study knowledge results.
 - d. **self-control** ... Once one has learned the path, practice keeps him on it.
 - e. **perseverance** ... Skillful diligence makes it easy to sustain effort.
 - f. **godliness** ... It is the nature of mankind to emulate his hero and those he reveres.
 - g. **brotherly kindness** ... Those who emulate God will treat people like He does.
 - h. **love** ... Once one's mind is transformed, his attitude toward others will be godly.
2. When one has incorporated these virtues into his life, his eternal destiny is secure.
 - a. **II Pet.1: 8** – For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render **S#18.** you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.
 - b. **yours and are increasing** ... These virtues aren't an accomplishment, but a lifestyle
 - c. **neither useless nor unfruitful** ... Having these is essential to be a servant of God.
 - d. **lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted** ... Not developing these reflects poor (**Cf – to 1 talent man .. Matt. 25: 18-30**) poor spiritual character.
 - f. **forgotten his purification** ... Is a mark of being ungrateful for one's salvation
3. One's eternal security is tied to the continued growth of his commitment.
 - a. **II Pet.1: 10** – Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain **S#19.** about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.
 - b. **be all the more diligent** ... Knowing these things are essential, **work at them**.
 - c. **about His calling** .. If you really surrendered your heart, you will do these. **Rm 6:15ff**
 - d. **you will never stumble** ... There would be no warning if stumbling was impossible.
 - b. **entrance into the eternal kingdom** ... **abundantly supplied to you.** ... Salvation is by faith , NOT by any system of works.

C. How can entrance into Heaven depend on adding and increasing these ?

1. These things are essential to having a living faith.

James 2: 26 – For just as the body without the spirit is dead,
so also faith without works is dead.

S#20.

2. We are saved by grace through faith, but we are saved to DO certain things.

Eph. 2: 8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not
of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no
one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for
good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

S#21.

3. All of these things are essential to making FAITH fruitful.

a. **II Pet.1: 5** – Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,
in your faith supply moral excellence,

S#22.

b. **II Pet.1: 8** – For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render
you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

c. Essential to preventing us from becoming like the 1 talent man – unfruitful, useless

CONCLUSION :

S#23.

A. Jesus saved us by sacrificing Himself on a cross suspended for everyone to see.

B. Jesus expects us to sacrifice ourselves publically like a light in a dark place.

S#24.

C. As the sacrifice of Jesus brought glory to the Father, so must our sacrifice.

S#25.

D. Jesus is serving us as an advocate before God, we must serve Him as an
advocate before man.

1. We do this in both word and deed.
2. We do it diligently and daily.
3. Our eternal relationship with Him depends upon our doing so.

INVITATION : Am I ... are you serving Jesus every day ?

S#26.

I Cor. 10: 12 – Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

S#27. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Matthew 10.24-40**

21 A Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. **22** You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

23 But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

24 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. **25** It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!

26 Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27** What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. **28** Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

32 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33** But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

34 Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; **36** and a man's enemies will be the members of his household.

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

40 He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.