

Christian Life

Talk #7

Scripture Ref: 1 Cor. 13:1-3, Matt 7:15-22, Luke 11:1-13

Speaker & Length Youth, 20 minutes

Progression This talk continues the theme of God as a community of love by showing that a real personal relationship can be established with Him. This relationship (our Christian life) is built on what we do and what we say.

Purpose Christian life is Christ living in us. We must be witnesses to this life in our relationship with God and our neighbors. Our deeds show our love and our faith strengthens our deeds. Faith in love relationships is bolstered by prayer. The speaker addresses the negative images sometimes associated with Christian life and brings the candidates to an understanding that true Christian life is a living, dynamic relationship with God in which we respond by knowing, loving, and speaking to Him. Christian life should be illustrated through witness of the speaker.

Introduction

Christian life is Christ living in us. We must be witnesses to this life in our relationship with God and our neighbors. Our deeds show our love and our faith strengthens our deeds.

I. Misconceptions of Christian Life

What does living a Christian life really mean? Can I live my life in such a way as to give the wrong impression of Christian living? Let's look at some people who may appear to be living a Christian life but are really not.

- A. There are people that we can call Holy Joes/Holy Hildas. They are not real. They always act perfect, but no love comes out of them. They always put others down to make themselves look good. They are not concerned as much about bringing others to Christ as they are looking good. Have you ever seen anyone act that way or acted that way yourself. Give examples, but don't use names.
- B. Now let's tell the folks about Mechanical Mike/Mechanical Millie. You know, only the letter of the law counts. They do the minimum of requirements and go through the motions out of fear. Fear of what? Well, there's Hell or a bad reputation. Again, use examples from your own experience.
- C. Let's not forget the Hypocrites: Hypocritical Hal/Hypocritical Henrietta. You know them. Their real concerns are for personal glory. They pretend to be what they are not. They do not know Christ and are not living according to His word. Cite examples from your experience.

II. Real Christian Life--What is it? Does it grow on you? How can you tell if you are really living a Christian life?

Christian life is a real personal relationship with God. It is knowing Him, loving Him, and serving Him. In other words, it is making the decisions to live your life in a way that would make Him happy.

III. Characteristics of a Christian Life

- A. Natural - never phony! It is the sincere expression of what is going on inside of you. It will be as simple as a good loving relationship with your parents and your best friend.
- B. Courageous - if you are real, people are going to see that you have a relationship with Christ. And, you want them to know that you do--you do not hide the fact that God and you relate well with each other.
- C. Mature - I live by the goals and ideals that I have set for myself (with God's help). This motivates me and is rewarding to me as a person.
- D. Joyful - because I have a relationship with God I am happy. "A sad saint ain't no saint at all!" I am God's child and He is in me and this makes me joyful and brings inner peace and happiness. We need to see that joy is not the same thing as pleasure.

IV. If you are living a Christian life, what will your behavior be like?

- A. You will have knowledge. You will know that you are a child of God and the Holy Spirit directs your life. This means that you see things the way God sees them. You will want God's will in every situation. Where do you go to find this knowledge? His Word. (Tell about how you began to study God's Word for this needed knowledge.)
- B. You will be loving. If you are living a Christian life, who is the most important person? God is of course. (Tell how you've made decisions to live in a way that expressed your love for God and others.)
- C. You will want to serve God. This is a deliberate decision to follow God's teachings in your daily life -- in witnessing, prayer, taking care of the sick, homeless, (and even caring for members of your own family). Share some examples of possible situations.

V. Summary

If I have a relationship with Jesus, my response will be to identify with His goals. He gave us the Holy Spirit to give us the power to make us witnesses. If I love Him, I will want to be in church so that I can learn more about Him. If I love Him, I will spend time with Him talking with Him in prayer. This can be spontaneous as well as formal. We can tell God what is in our hearts and minds, and we can do this alone or with others - as in prayer groups.