

Now That I'm A Christian...

- Once we become **Christians** and begin our new walk (*Rom 6:4*) there are certain things that we are to say and do differently. Attitude, language, dress, conduct and others are to have the *etiquette required of one who has taken the name of ownership to **Christ**.

* Webster: etiquette- the forms, manners, etc. conventionally acceptable or required in society. The **Christian's** authority on etiquette can only be found in the **Bible**. We are to go above and beyond what society deems etiquette because there are things considered right and good by society that aren't right and good with **God**.

Gal 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.

...self should no longer exist.

Php 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory (Gk.2754- self-conceit) [It's no longer to be "my way or the highway"]; but in lowliness of mind (Gk.5012- modesty: -humbleness of mind) let each esteem (Gk.2233- consider) other better than themselves.*

Rom 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: **4** Who have for my life **laid down their own necks**: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Jas 2:9 **But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin**, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

- From this passage we are not to go beyond esteeming others to the point of respecting one person above another. No matter what, we are to judge righteously.

Joh 7:24 **Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**

...squabbling, dirty jokes, cussing and any foul language should be a thing of the past.

Php 2:14 Do all things **without murmurings and disputings**: **15** That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

- How much harm do we suppose can be done by what is spoken? And how does our language reflect our conversion to those around us? "*Sticks and stones*" can hurt physically, but "*words*" can and do hurt more in that they touch the inner person which in turn controls the outer.

Jas 3:2 ... If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect (*Gk.5046- complete [in mental and moral character]*) man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body. (*His inner man is able to control his human nature.*) **3** Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. **4** Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. **5** Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! **6** And the **tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity**: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. **7** For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed

of mankind: **8** But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an **unruly evil, full of deadly poison**. **9** Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. **10** Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. **My brethren, these things ought not so to be.**

Eph 5:4 Neither filthiness (*Gk.151- obscenity*), nor foolish talking (*Gk.3473- silly talk, that is, buffoonery**), nor jesting (*Gk.2160- witticism, that is, [in a vulgar sense] ribaldry**), which are not convenient (*Gk.433- be proper*): but rather giving of thanks (*Gk.2169- gratitude; actually grateful language*). Our language should be of a grateful nature at all times.

*Webster: buffoon- one who is always trying to be funny; clown. Joking in and of itself isn't bad as long as it's "clean". But in the context, joking about things the Bible takes very seriously and considers sin is, in and of itself, also sin. Just because we don't "physically" take part in sinful behavior doesn't mean we are innocent when we joke about it either. Should we jest about homosexuality? Hell? The judgment?

Rom 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, **but have pleasure in them that do them.**

ribald- coarse or vulgar joking, speaking, etc. There's nothing wrong with joking unless it's done un-Christ-like. How would Jesus feel if He heard what we said? We should speak as though He is always present (*even though He is*). Would it be something that could be circulated in Heaven?

...it is my duty to get involved in the work of the church.

Works that I can get involved in:

1. **Evangelism**- Anything from inviting someone to worship, passing out business cards or flyers, sharing why you seem different to anyone who asks, and other things. Be creative! It should never be solely up to the preacher in any congregation to seek and save the lost.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify (*Gk.37- make holy*) the Lord God in your hearts (*Gk.2588- mind*) [*Garbage in, garbage out. Why not holiness in, holiness out?*]: and be ready (*Gk.2092- adjusted: -prepared*) **always** (*Gk.104- regularly; earnestly*) to give an answer to every man that asketh you a **reason of the hope** (*Gk.1680- confidence*) **that is in** you with meekness and fear: **16** Having a good conscience (*Gk.4893- moral consciousness*); that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) in Christ.

2. **Bible study**- Daily! A good salesman knows his product and can answer any question a customer might ask even before he asks it! Unlike vacuum cleaners or encyclopedias what we have is not for sale and it's given away freely but is what everyone **does** need. Be prepared by being a good Bible student!

2Ti 2:15 Study (*Gk.4704- make an effort*) to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman (*Gk.2040- a toiler*) that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (*Gk.3718- to dissect [expound*] correctly [the divine message]*) the word of truth.

*Webster: expound- 1. to set forth; state in detail 2. to explain. When in school we were often given "pop" quizzes or tests. Life deals us many "pop" tests that we need to be ready for. To a Christian, we are preparing for any and all tests that will come as we make the effort to explain the truth by first knowing it.

3. **Participation**- Attend any and all functions in the **Lord's** body. A lot of work goes into preparation for these different events to be successful, whether **Bible** class, game night, fellowship meals or other. Having a home **Bible** study, even if you aren't leading it, just might teach a family member, co-worker, neighbor or friend about **Jesus** and the truth. Aren't you glad someone else was involved to the point that you found it?

...I need to be a better...

employee.

Col 3:22 Servants (*Gk.1401- a slave [literally or figuratively, involuntarily or voluntarily]*), obey in all things your masters according to the flesh ("*earthly masters*"- *God's Word*); not with eye service (*as though you need to be watched*), as menpleasers (*Gk.441- fawning [Webster: to show friendliness by licking hands...like a dog] a.k.a. kissing up*); but in singleness (*Gk.572- sincerity*) of heart (*Gk.2588- mind*), fearing God: 23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, **as to the Lord**, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: **for ye serve the Lord Christ**. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is **no respect of persons**.

- Many preachers, denominational and even in the **Lord's** church, at one time used this passage, among others, to justify slavery as it was understood during the 1800's in this country. But used in the context "servant" had to do with both the indentured and hired. Therefore, can it not be applied to today's employee? Should a **Christian** get a raise by flattery, picketing **or** by good work ethic? Think of going to work for **Christ**, even if we dig ditches for a living, and see if our attitudes would change.

Luk 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse *any* falsely; and **be content with your wages**.

...employer.

Eph 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing (*Gk.447- to let up, that is, slacken, desist from*) threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him.

- Ultimately **Christ** is our **Master**! No matter what our status is in this life, we all will have **Him** to answer to according to how we treat and/or honor each other. Therefore, give a good honest wage, especially to those with good work ethics.

...husband.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

- Men, how do we take care of ourselves? And do we take care of our wives like we would ourselves? Are we harsh with ourselves? If the wife isn't a **Christian**, will my behavior change that?

Col 3:19 Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter (*harsh*) against them.

...wife.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

- Ladies, as a **Christian** do you place yourselves under your husband's authority? After all, it is the appropriate behavior of a **Christian** wife to do so no matter what the feminists say and especially when your husband is not a **Christian** (*1 Pet 3:1*). Your conduct just might win him over. And being submissive also excludes nagging. If husbands and wives would only obey these commands there would **not** be the breakup in families as it exists today.

1Pe 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, **who trusted in God**, adorned themselves, **being in subjection** (*Gk.5293- subordination; obedience*) unto their own husbands: **6** Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (*Gk.2962- [as respectful title]*) [*She understood her place, as he understood his!*]: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. (*A Christian wife isn't to get all excited over anything that might frighten her otherwise, because being in her position she knows her husband will protect and do what's best for her "as ... the weaker vessel" [v. 7].*)

...father.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- Isn't it interesting that in most passages where teaching the children is even mentioned, the fathers have a main role in the spiritual education of their offspring. And as such we can also be their greatest deterrent to spiritual growth and maturity. All too often the fathers are the reason that many children who leave home will never shadow the door of a meeting place. As a **Christian**, a father needs to show how focused he is on spiritual things by being the loving example his children need. We need to stop listening to the degrading that the media gives to men as though we are such idiots and stand up for the true role that men are destined to play, according to **God's** plan, and not society's.

...mother.

- Some, but not a lot is said concerning mothers in the **New Testament** and their role in the spiritual influence they are to have on their offspring.

1Ti 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

- Most of the "upbringing" verses have to do with fathers. That alone should say something about the influence a **Godly** father has on his children. But then there's the passage in **Paul's** letter to **Timothy**. What was it about the faith that was in his grandmother and mother that made **Timothy** the man he was and that **Paul** noticed?

2Ti 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith **that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice;** and I am **persuaded that in thee also.**

(Ultimately, parents are responsible for the spiritual education of their children and are not to relinquish that honor to the children's Bible class teacher! And just because we don't have classes for children is no reason to not bring them. It's obvious that they're listening.)

Deu 11:18 Therefore shall ye lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. **19** And

ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

 ...son or daughter.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**: for this is right. **2** Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise; *i.e.*,) **3** That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

“This is restricted by the expression “in the Lord” which means a child may refuse to obey his parents if they ask him to do something that is wrong in God's sight.” Gary Hampton

“Obeying and honoring one's parents helps to develop a character well suited for a long life on earth. Such takes self-control, a teachable spirit, self-discipline and recognition of authority, which are necessary ingredients for living on this earth.”

The Christian's Home Gary Hampton

“It appears to this writer that Paul's words on the family are a special application of doing all in the Lord's name. In even the smallest of tasks, when two people work together someone must be in charge or direct the work. God ordained that the wife should yield to the authority of her husband.”

Gen 3:16 ... thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

“Subjection is fitting under God's law, but not if the husband directs his wife to do something unfit in God's sight.”

Act 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to **obey God rather than men**.

“While the wife is to be in subjection, the husband cannot be a thoughtless dictator. A man's wife is to be his special love and she should receive the tender attention one would give to his own fragile, sensitive body parts.”

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, **as unto the weaker vessel**, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (*Will God hear our prayers when there is contention between us?*)

*“Children should submit themselves to their parents in obedience. Such teaches them appropriate submission to authority and will help them be prepared to yield to God. Again, submission is **limited** [emp. mine] to doing those things which are right in God's sight, for the Christian's ultimate goal is to please Him. A father's goal should be to encourage his children to do good. He should **carefully** [emp. mine] direct and discipline so as to keep them on the path of righteousness.”*

Col 3:20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. **21** Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

...unmarried, widow/widower.

1Co 7:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.
9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

- If at all possible, Paul is here stating, that those who were not married or have lost their spouses might consider remaining such, as was his status. But if not possible they were to marry, if they were good candidates*, in order to escape those physical passions that could eventually lead them to sin. And age shouldn't matter. Notice the life of Anna. She was married seven years when her husband died and never married afterwards.

Luk 2:36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

1Co 7:32 But I would have you without carefulness (*to be free from worry*). He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: 33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife.

1Co 7:39 The wife is bound by the law ("to her husband"* - Rom 7:2) as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord** (*if she and the one she intends to marry are able according to Jesus' teaching on the subject- Mat 5:31-32; 19:3-12*). 40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

- Paul was content with his status of being unmarried. He also understood, according to his own judgment via inspiration, that those who were married could not be expected to give the attention to the faith that a single person could.

...friend.

- To be a really good friend would be to mention Christ and His saving grace and to try to get others into a Bible study to show, as Paul did to the Jews at Damascus, "that this is very Christ" (Act 9:22).

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: 1 Pet 3:21 "...even baptism doth also (*among other things*) now save us...."

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Now that I'm a Christian things are to be different as I begin this new life in Christ.

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