

HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

Text: Galatians 2:20

Key Word: Live

Key Thought: How Should We Live?

Have You Ever Been Asked What it Takes to Live as a Child of God? Some think . . .

1. Everyone is a member of God's family
2. You are born into a Christian family
3. You can join the church
4. Be as good as you can be

Have you ever wondered how God many people are confused on this issue. There appears to be many good things that hinder people from really coming to God.

Why are there so many people who are returning to a rut in life that really hinders their spiritual walk when the gospel is so clear? Why is it that often our lifestyles prove that we are confused about the Word of God? What are some simple and yet profound truths that we can establish in our hearts that will make for a better life and ensure our eternal life in heaven as a child of God?

I. WE MUST DIE WITH CHRIST (Galatians 2:20a)

II. WE MUST LIVE BY CHRIST (Galatians 2:20b)

III. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST (Galatians 2:20c)

I. WE MUST DIE WITH CHRIST (Galatians 2:20a)

"I have been crucified with Christ . . ."

Galatians 2:20a

I will never be compelled to watch a Zombie movie. I don't think I could imagine anything more repulsive than a corpse raising from its grave and walking around in its dead state. This may be even too vivid a description for any of us to imagine. Yet in many cases it is the picture of some churches in America. The only time we may seem to "**die with Christ**" spiritually is when we need help beyond what we can do; or when we're really sick; or when we've got no other direction to turn. It is during these times that we seem to come humbly before the Lord for His help. **That is not what Paul was referring to when he wrote about being crucified with Christ!**

I. WE MUST DIE WITH CHRIST (Galatians 2:20a)(Contd.)

Paul used the Greek word “*synestaurōmai*” (*scenestarrowmay*) is a verb used only once in the Bible by Paul. It is in the Perfect Tense meaning “*a past action with issuing a lasting result.*” He was referring to a complete breach with our old thoughts and way of life. It was radical faith that brought forth a reorientation of thought and a total change in our life.

Death must be an established fact independent upon the circumstances that surround us. Certain deaths carry with them great pomp and glory as in the case of a parliamentarian or dignitary (i.e., Princess Diana). **But crucifixion brought no glory to its victim.** Paul taught the early church that the Old Paul was Dead and the New Paul was Resurrected from his habitual life of sinful behaviour because of Jesus his Saviour.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written”Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

Galatians 3:13; cf. Deuteronomy 21:23

“Those who spend all their lives in fear of death sometimes find a strange relief when death itself comes; there is nothing left now to fear.”

*Rev Canan R. A. Cole
Tyndale New Testament Commentary of Galatians
p. 124*

He was of course, referring to spiritual death. Has the church in Canada really died in such an abased manner? Crucifixion is . . .

- 1). Painful**
- 2). Humiliating**
- 3). Sorrowful**
- 4). Dethroning**

Spiritual death must be approached as a final act. The church in Canada has often walked up to the empty grave, gazed intensely and then walked away. **WE BELIEVE THAT THERE MUST BE DEATH TO MAKE CHRISTIANITY ALIVE, BUT WE WANT CHRIST TO DO ALL THE DYING.** We CAN'T die like Jesus and forgive our past sin but we CAN die to the old life that brought about many types of sin into our lives.

I. WE MUST DIE WITH CHRIST (Galatians 2:20a)(Contd.)

Crucifixion was an instrument of death that was detested by the Jews. Even the Romans said,

“Let the very name of the cross be far away not only from the body of a Roman citizen, but even from his thoughts, his eyes, his ears.”

Cicero Pro Rabirio

3 January 106 BC – 7 December 43 BC)

Cicero was a Roman statesman,
a lawyer, scholar, philosopher, orator, and writer.

The sufferings of crucifixion were so frightening that,

“even among the raging passions of war, pity was sometimes excited.”

The victim of crucifixion was said to have died a thousand deaths. This is the illustration that Paul used to describe his identification with Christ. It describes a total selling out to God. Nothing more could be asked for. **There was not a more vivid means of describing death in Paul’s day than that of crucifixion.**

If we are truly willing to make such a committed response to Christ’s willingness to die for us, then and only then, are we at the point where real life will begin. We must understand that our life will come about when we **DIE TO OUR OLD NATURE. No seed can become fruitful unless it is first planted into the ground where it will die. **WE MUST BEGIN OUR NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE BY FIRST OF ALL DYING WITH CHRIST.****

II. WE MUST LIVE BY CHRIST (Galatians 2:20b)

“And I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

Galatians 2:20b

If Christ truly lives in us would we do what we do, say what we say, think what we think, look the way we look? Do our spiritually reborn lives truly reflect His image? Would He be willing to identify Himself with us? Our life MUST reflect His life. If it’s not, then we’ve really never come to know God. **TO KNOW GOD IS TO PLEASE HIM.**

Our grandson Michael used a term I don’t remember ever hearing “**Continuity Error.**” He described it by using pop culture in movie making where something is one thing in one shot and something totally different in another (i.e. - green car in one shot and a blue car in another).

II. WE MUST LIVE BY CHRIST (Galatians 2:20b)(Contd.)

It's like an **oxymoron** which is something (such as a concept) that is made up of **contradictory elements**. (i.e. - jumbo scrimp; working vacation or fresh cafeteria food). It's similar to the person we act like when we are around our friends but we portray another lifestyle when we are among other Christians. Can we Live By Christ one day and Live By Satan the next day? Of course not! That is what Paul was referring to. We need to live in a way that contradicts a worldly lifestyle. Perhaps that is what

LORD MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT

Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; and
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
Seek to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi
(c. 1181 – 3 October 1226), was a poet and Catholic friar
who founded the religious order of the Franciscans.
Inspired 650,000 Franciscans in 110 countries.
He lead a Christian life of poverty,
he became a beggar and itinerant preacher.

*** Some time ago a psychologist by the name of William
Moulton Marston asked three thousand people, ***“What have you to
live for?”***

He was shocked to find that **94% were simply enduring
the present while waiting for the future.** They described it as
waiting for **“something”** to happen. They were waiting for their
children to grow up and leave home, waiting for next year, waiting
for another time to take a long-dreamed trip, waiting for tomorrow
to arrive. **They were all waiting, without realizing that all
anyone ever has is today because yesterday is gone and
tomorrow may never come.**

II. We Must Live By Christ (Contd.)

*** We have all experienced blackouts. Every year our emergency lighting and fire extinguishers are checked to make sure they are functioning properly. Our invoice explains the work that was done and if anything needed to be replaced.

We also have a separate fire alarm system that sends an alert directly to the fire station if it is triggered. It contains 2 12Volt sealed recharable lead acid batteries. Over a period of 3-4 years they don't recharge fully or not at all. Our lawn mower uses a sealed 12 Volt lead acid battery that should be trickle charged over the winter.

Some recharable batteries need to be fully discharged before recharging them a few times a year to keep them functioning properly.

It made me think that the only way for them to become dependable when called upon is for them first to die. Every born again Christian has had to be completely dead before they were brought back to life. ***

Perhaps the reason why some Christians never produce the **light of Christ** and the **life of Christ** is that they've never been **fully discharged** of their old life. **They may have had temporary blackouts but were able to get restored before they had completely died to their old life.** God's Church North America needs to grasp this truth that we must no longer live by our original power but that Christ must live within us as we are resurrected from our old lifestyle.

III. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST (Galatians 2:20c)

"The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God."

Galatians 2:20c

After accepting the fact that we must **Die WITH Christ** to **Live BY Christ** we need to place our **Faith IN Christ**. We all need to live a long-term, consistent lifestyle that pleases God. **This lifestyle must be rooted in our faith in God. It is NOT a faith in faith, or a faith in others or even a faith in things. It is rather a faith that believes even though there is no evidence that supports it.** It is easy to believe during the good times but what do we do when we can only trust God without evidence of Him responding? [What do we do when we experience something that doesn't make any sense?](#)

- 1). When a loved one suffers before you without the slightest release from their pain.
- 2). When a baby dies
- 3). When a tragic accident occurs that could easily have been avoided

[Is this the only time we put our hope by faith in Christ? Wouldn't it be better to have a continual faith that will bring you through these times of trial?](#)

III. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST (Galatians 2:20c)(Contd.)

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.”

GOT TO BE IN QUEBEC

*** There was story told by the captain of a ship on which George Muller of Bristol, England was traveling. During brother Muller's life, he received more than \$1,000,000 British pounds from the Lord, without any advertizing. Every penny came as a result to prayer.

“We had George Muller of Bristol on board,” said the captain. “I had been on the bridge for twenty-four hours and never left it when George Muller came to me and said,”

“Captain, I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.”

“It is impossible,” I said.

“Then very well, if your ship cannot take me, God will find another way. I have never broken an engagement in fifty-seven years; let us go down to the chart room and pray.”

“I looked at that man of God and thought to myself, ‘What lunatic asylum did he come from, for I have never heard of such a thing as this?’”

“Mr. Muller,” I said, “do you know how dense the fog is?”

“No,” he replied, “my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life.”

He knelt down and prayed one of the most simple prayers. When he had finished I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray.

“As you do not believe He will answer, and as I believe He has, there is no need whatever for you to pray about it. Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years and there has never been a single day when I have failed to get an audience with the King. Get up, Captain, and open the door and you will find the fog has gone.”

“I got up and the fog indeed was gone, and on that Saturday afternoon George Muller kept his promised engagement.”

Sunday School Times
1859-1966

Now digitalized in the Jerry Falwell Library at Liberty University

III. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST (Galatians 2:20c)(Contd.)

We are limited to a life in this body but yet given an opportunity to expand our human resources into a supernatural realm by faith in God. Why would we ever wish to trust in any less?

Our life needs to be one that . . .

I. We Must Die **WITH Christ**

II. We Must Live **BY Christ**

III. We Must Have Faith **IN Christ**

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Date: June 8/25

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: You Are Awesome in This Place

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