

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

It is abundantly obvious from this statement that the Christian's life is new and different from his old way of life before becoming a Christian. The old life is not in harmony with the new life. Paul said in Romans 6:4 that we arise from the waters of baptism to walk in “newness of life.” Christians have been translated out of the “power of darkness” and into “the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13). Since we are now primarily citizens of God's spiritual kingdom, what should we expect our lives to be like?

1. A life separate from the world, 2 Corinthians 6:17. “Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’” The world walks in its own ways and wisdom (1 Cor. 1:18-21) and is not in submission to God, generally speaking (1 Jn. 2:15-17). The new convert has come to realize that he is a sinner, having violated God's will, and comes to God begging forgiveness on the basis of his own willingness to repent (change of mind). As the New Testament transforms his way of thinking (Rom. 12:1-2), he begins to transform his life as well. Morality and right are determined by God and accepted by the child of God. This is how the Christian lives a life separate from the world.

2. A life of faith and trust, Galatians 2:20; Proverbs 3:5. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.” Man with his own wisdom cannot see very far down the pathway of life. What seems like a good idea today may not be so good in time. God, Who knows the end of a thing from the beginning (Acts 15:18), has a wisdom and understanding that can only be fathomed by an eternal, infinite, perfect God. Therefore, the Christian comes to God trusting in Him and not in himself.

3. A life of service, 1 Corinthians 15:58. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” Christianity is not a religion of theory but of practice. Consequently, once a Christian learns the right way to live and act, then he lives it every day in his life. The Christian life is a life of sacrifice and service. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, did not come to be served, but to serve others and to give His life a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). While His life was given in death, the Christian's life is given in living service (Matt. 6:24; Lk. 1:74; 4:8). Jesus said, “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor” (Jn. 12:26).

4. A life of prayer, 1 Thessalonians 5:17. “Pray without ceasing.” Christians speak to God through prayer. It is a great privilege to know that when the Christian prays, God hears and answers (1 Jn. 5:14-15). It is a life of prayer that reminds the Christian of his dependency on God.

5. A life of example, 1 Timothy 4:12. “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” Not only are young Christians to be an example to other Christians, but so are all Christians! Others are watching how the Christian lives, and the Christian is a follower of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).

These are a few ways in which the Christian lives a new life. It produces a fruitful life for all time and eternity! John 15:5