

Because One Is A Christian

by Bill Crews

Surely you have heard it before -- many times. One can be honest, sincere, moral, considerate and respected AND STILL NOT BE A CHRISTIAN. But let us also place due emphasis upon the fact that one cannot BE a Christian without possessing these and other like attributes. Anyone who is genuinely a Christian:

- 1. Has and shows respect for others. He knows that all men have been made in God's image.** He is aware of each one's potential for good -- whatever each one is now. He especially has and shows respect for the elderly. Gen. 1:16-17; Jas. 3:9-10; Lev. 19:32; Prov. 16:31.
- 2. Treats others with courtesy -- with politeness and graciousness.** After all, he has been taught to treat others as he wants others to treat him. God is his example in loving all men and desiring and seeking their spiritual welfare, Matt. 7:12; Rom. 12:14, 21; 10:1; 1 Cor. 9:22.
- 3. Has a proper regard for the rights, feelings, and property of others, and would never knowingly harm or destroy either (Eph. 4:31-32).** He does not insist that his rights come before the rights of others (Phil. 3:3-4; 1 Cor. 6:7-8). He is not insensitive to the feelings of others while expecting others to be sensitive to his feelings. If he borrows or uses something which does not belong to him, he will take good care of it and even replace it or repair it should he damage it cf. 2 Kings 6:5; Ex. 22:10-15.
- 4. Drives his automobile in such a manner as to show that he is honestly trying to obey the traffic laws and has regard for the safety of his passengers and the occupants of other vehicles.** He may wisely be a defensive driver, but he is also humanely a courteous driver, Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17.
- 5. Does not thoughtlessly litter the streets and highways with his paper, cans, bottles, or anything else he decides to throw away.** He knows that such trash is unsightly, that some of it can even be dangerous, and that it is all gathered up only at great public expense, 1Pet. 2:13-17.
- 6. Takes care of the classrooms and auditorium of the congregational meeting house and teaches his children to do the same.** He will damage neither the building itself nor its contents. He will with consideration try to keep the building clean and not thoughtlessly clutter it with trash. My guess is that those who never have to clean up a building are not as conscientious in this matter as those who do.
- 7. Will as a student in a public school or a college respect the regulations and the officials, conscientiously strive to do his best, and become a real asset to the institution,** 1 Pet. 2:13; Eccl. 9:10.
- 8. Will work honestly and industriously at his place of employment, command the respect of both employees and officials, and remember that in being an honest and productive worker he is serving God. All such duties should be done as "unto the Lord,"** Titus 3:14; 1 Thess. 4:11-12; cf. Col. 3:22-25.
- 9. Maintains a good credit rating by paying his bills** when they are due or by making extended arrangements with his creditors when he becomes unable to pay them on time. He is honest, reliable, dependable, and he treats a loan from an individual (who might not press him for repayment) just as he treats a loan from an institution (which will force him to repay), Rom. 13:8; 12:17; Philemon 18; Eccl. 5:1-5. I know of some Christians, among them preachers, who to this day have made no effort to payoff some of their debts.
- 10. Has and maintains a good reputation** among all who know him well because he strives to build a solid character within, to be the kind of person God wants him to be. 1 Tim. 4:12; Matt. 5:13-16.

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