



SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD

To Be Like Jesus

Life Reference: I Peter 1:13-17

Focus Verse:

“Be ye holy; for I am holy” (I Peter 1:16).

“What do you do?”

We all know the question means, “How do you earn a living?” Whenever strangers sit together, whether it is in the doctor’s office or on an airplane, the question is inevitable.

The answer serves two purposes. Each can label the other based on their occupation and the information provides fuel for further conversation.

In today’s culture, people have a “doing” mentality. In fact, we tend to wear our busyness like a badge to prove our value. Anyone who rests, beyond an occasional vacation, is considered lazy and unproductive.

This attitude bleeds over into the mindset of Christians too. We evaluate our own success at Christianity by the amount of activities we perform. Is this biblical?



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Life Reflection:

Do I feel guilty when I rest?

Do I sometimes replace prayer and Bible study with religious activities?

Am I overly concerned about what others think of me?

It has been said that we are human *beings* not human *doings*. A “doing” mentality can affect our moral decisions because it is a noticeable standard by which we live. We can mask who and what we are by what we accomplish. When appearances are all that matter, we may tolerate sin in our lives as long as we look holy to others. We must do more than appear holy; we must be holy on the inside.

The Scriptures are abrupt in their response to an inconsistent Christian lifestyle:

Isaiah 29:13

“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.”

Matthew 23:25-28

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

“Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisee, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.

“Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”





Life Reflection:

Do I overlook my own misdeeds and misspoken words as long as no one else saw or heard?

Each of us must monitor what is going on within. Our thoughts reveal our motives. Am I doing this to please others? Feel good about myself? Impress someone? Gain a position? To be in control? Because I feel it is what God wants me to do? Is it to please Him?

The goal of a Christian has to be, "I want to be a Christian inside and out." Although our tendency is to begin cleaning the outside, the place to start is within. What is on the inside will become apparent. It will affect our behavior, reactions, words, attitude, and appearance.

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (conduct); Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15-16).

We must become holy because God is holy. The question is not, "What are you doing?" but, "What are you being?"

Life Reflection:

What does it mean to be holy?

My Webster's dictionary defines the word holy as "being consecrated to God." When we consecrate ourselves to God, we exalt and honor Him. We are devoting our lives to Him—doing what pleases Him!





Life Response:

The Bible gives us insight into some areas in which God expects our consecration. We please Him when we obey His Word. Let's explore some of these areas:

1) Be thankful.

"Be ye thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

Thankfulness is a lifestyle more than words. We may say, "Thank you!" when we receive a hideous birthday gift. What we say may or may not reveal the truth.

Our attitude exposes whether or not we have a thankful heart. Whining, criticizing, and complaining are not fruits of a thankful attitude. Even when bad things happen in our lives, we still have a lot of reasons to be thankful.

Life Reflection:

In what areas of my life is thankfulness a struggle?

Thankfulness reduces the amount of temptation we encounter. When we are not thankful for what we have, we are tempted to steal or commit adultery.

2) Be consistent.

"Be ye steadfast (fixed, firm, resolute, consistent), unmoveable, always abounding in the word of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

When our lives are productivity driven and we do not receive the response, reaction, or reward we are expecting, our activities are short lived. However, if we desire to please God, perks and emotional strokes are just an extra bonus. It is all right to enjoy them, but whether we receive them or not, we continue on the course we have charted.





Life Reflection:

Am I often swayed by the opinions of others?

When we are steadfast, we stand firm. Around us are ever changing circumstances and opinions, but a made up mind keeps us from being swayed by the ebb and flow of life. We are faithful in giving, serving, supporting our pastor, and church attendance today and will still be committed five years from now.

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful (tenderhearted), be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing” (I Peter 3:8,9).

Blessings come to those who are stable and steady in their walk with God and service in His Kingdom!

3) **Be perfect.**

“Be ye therefore perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

Life Reflection:

How do I feel about the directive, “Be ye therefore *perfect*”?

The word *perfect* in this Scripture refers to maturity. Maturity is relevant. A toddler may fall a lot and have a limited vocabulary, but he is perfect—mature for his age. If he is still at the same level ten years later, however, a problem exists. The same is true for Christians. We are born into God’s family. We are first infants, before crawling and taking baby steps. But as long we are growing, we are perfect—mature.



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Maturity is different stages at different ages. We must not be impatient with others, rather willing to give them room to be where they are in their walk with God.

Regardless of how long we have lived for God, a maturing—perfecting—process is still taking place in our hearts and lives.

My Prayer:

Dear God,

I want to be like You. I want to please You in all I do. I don't want You to be ashamed to be called my God. (See Hebrews 11:16.)

Give me courage to lay aside every weight that keeps me from maturing. (See Hebrews 12:1.)

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

More Life with God References:

Leviticus 11:44-45

Leviticus 20:7-8

II Peter 3:14

John 14:27

I Corinthians 7:15

Ephesians 4:22-24

I Thessalonians 5:18

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptural references were taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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