## Whatever You Do...

Without basic godly principles to live by, people are out of control. With basic godly principles to live by, people are in control of their lives. Consider three basic biblical principles to live by:

- I. Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31). Here, Paul emphasizes a selfless attitude when exercising your personal liberties (I Corinthians 8:13; 9:19; 10:24, 33). Everything you do must bring glory to God!
- 2. Whatever you do, do all in the name of the Lord (Colossians 3:17). Here, Paul emphasizes a Christ-centered attitude (Colossians 3:15-17). Doing something "in the name of" means doing something "by the authority of" (Acts 3:6; 4:10, 18; 5:40; Jasmes 5:10). Everything you do must have Jesus' authority behind it!
- 3. Whatever you do, work heartily to the Lord (Colossians 3:22-23). Here, Paul again emphasizes a Christ-focused attitude. "Heartily" means literally, "from the soul". In other words, put your all into it. Don't be lazy, uncaring, or forced to do something. Everything you do must be done heartily to the Lord.

So, here are three biblical principles to live by. If you live by these principles you will be a changed person. You will be a God-glorifying, NT-authorizing, and enthusiastically-working person. - Chris Reeves

## Sentence Sermons

- You cannot determine your real wealth by examining your bank account.
- It is easy to lose interest in the church when you do not have much invested in the church.
- It matters not what you lose if you save your soul; it matters not what you save if you lose your soul.
- It is much better to be despised for what is right than to be praised for what is wrong.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ 290 Warfield Blvd. Clarksville, TN 37043

Website WBCOC.org

Assembly Times Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome! For More Information Call (931) 647-1324

Published and Edited by
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

What were first-century converts called? They were called saints, believers, disciples, brethren, the Way, etc. Additionally, a new name was given to these converts in Acts 11:26. Here, the disciples were called "Christians" first in Antioch.

Who is a "Christian"? Well, it depends upon who you ask. Webster's definition of a "Christian" is this: "I. a person professing belief in Jesus as the Christ... 3. a decent, respectable person." Other uses are of the name are "Christian nation," "Christian culture," "Christian school," etc.

Unfortunately, many today have lost sight of the true definition of who a Christian is in the fog of familiarity. "Christian" is often a watered-down and meaningless term today. We must look in the New Testament for the answer (1 Peter 4:16; Acts 11:26; .24:28). So, who is Christian?

A Christian is someone who has heard and believed the preaching of the Lord (Acts 11:20). Gospel preaching always precedes conversion in the New Testament (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16). Belief always precedes conversion; it comes by hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). Confession always precedes conversion because it is linked with belief (Romans 10:10). Baptism always precedes conversion,

because preaching Jesus includes preaching the necessity of baptism (Acts 8:12,35-36). Many have never heard the New Testament gospel. They have heard only a perverted gospel (human philosophy, social gospel, faith only, pray through, etc.).

A Christian is someone who has <u>received</u> the grace of the Lord (Acts 11: 21,23). God's grace (his mercy and kindness) always precedes conversion (Acts 18:27; 20:24; 20:32; I Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11). Yet, many today have refused God's grace.

A Christian is someone who has <u>turned</u> <u>unto the Lord (Acts 11:21)</u>. Repentance (turning) always precedes conversion (Acts 3:19; 9:35; 15:19; 26:20; I Thessalonians 1:9). Many today are at the turning point, but they simply will not turn to the Lord (Acts 24:25; 26:18). Many are willing to turn, but they turn to the wrong thing; a man-made teaching or a man-made denomination.

A Christian is someone who has <u>cleaved</u> <u>unto the Lord (Acts 11:23)</u>. A true Christian is truly committed to the Lord. He is stuck, like glue, cleaving to the Lord. Baptism is not the end point of his life, but the beginning point and he must remain committed (Hebrews 10:23-25). True commitment ("purpose of heart") is needed today (Joshua 22:5; Matthew 6:24; 22:37; Luke 14:33; Galatians 2:20). Many will not remain faithful to the Lord.

A Christian is someone who has been added unto the Lord (Acts 11:24). A true

Christian is a member of the Lord's body, the church (see "with the church" in verse 26). A true Christian is not a member of a man-made denomination. Many today have been added to man-made churches with the "Join-the-church-of-your-choice" approach to religion.

A Christian is someone who has been following the Lord (Acts 11:26). A true Christian follows the Lord and no one else. In fact, Christian (Greek, christianos) means follower of; adherent of; or belonging to Christ. First-century Christians did not wear any man-made, denominational names. "Christian" is an honorable name and a distinguishing name. These "Christians" followed what they learned ("disciples;" v.26) and were Christ-like.

How do true Christians follow Christ? By following his example (I Peter 2:21), his word (John 10:5,27) and by applying it in life (Lk.6:46). Why do true Christians follow Christ? To please no one but Christ (Galatians 1:10). When and where do true Christians follow Christ? They follow at all times and in all places (Revelation 14:4).

Friend, are you a true Christian as described in God's word (Acts 11:20-26)? Many are following everyone and everything but the Lord. Will you hear and believe the preaching of the Lord, receive the grace of the Lord, turn to the Lord, cleave to the Lord, be added to the Lord, and follow the Lord today? - Chris Reeves