

How to Remain
Christian in an
Unchristian
Environment

Emmanuel L. McCall Former Director of the Cooperative Ministries Division of the Southern Baptist Convention was the inspiration behind the writing of this page.

Major Factors in the Life of Jesus Christ:

- Jesus Christ had no identity crisis; He knew he was the son of God.
- Jesus Christ knew his purpose in life; he came to give hope and salvation to dying men and women.
- He remained obedient upon to death; he obeyed the word of God.
- He showed genuine love and compassion toward all mankind

Knowledge to be Aware of in Your Walk with Jesus:

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Be prepared to do spiritual battle with the forces of evil.
- Be aware of your spiritual heritage; you are a child of God.
- Believe in God; have faith that good will overcome evil.

Factors that Contribute to the Filling of the Holy Spirit:

- Hunger and thirst for righteousness
- The confession of sins
- Willingness to surrender the control of your life to Christ

Things to do to Remain Strong in the Faith

- Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Study the word of God- memorize key scripture
- Fellowship with other believers
- Witness with your words and actions
- Resist temptation
- Take a stand against evil
- Forgive those who wrong you- ask others to pray for you

LOVE THOU NEIGHBOR

John 15:12 - This is my commandment that ye love one another, as I have loved you (KJV)

Jesus mentioned love more than any other subject. The nature of God is built upon the foundation of his mercy and love.

St. John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV)

Love means responding to the teachings of Jesus Christ in a sincere, positive manner by doing for others when they cannot do for themselves, giving water to the thirsty, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and the shut-in are examples of sharing love through action.

Love also means the denial of television time, or whatever it is that gives pleasure, for the purpose of spending more meaningful time in prayer and bible study and it also means spending quality time with children and older people, or the sharing of one's time with persons who have special needs.

Love will inspire a person to share the good news of Jesus Christ with dying men and women for the love of God is sensitive to the well being of others. Love should be extended to everyone. A man should love his wife and a wife should love her husband. Parents should love their children and children should love their parents. There should be

love between brothers and sisters and love among all races and nationalities.

A good Bible study plan will aid a person in understanding the biblical principles of love. Paul gives some very interesting insights of love in the 13th. Chapter of first Corinthians, Jesus makes a profound statement about love in St. John 3:16, and he also gives a full discourse of the principles of love in the Beatitudes recorded in the 5th chapter of Matthew. Christians are encouraged to read these passages of Scripture and apply them to their daily lives.

THOU SHALT FORGIVE

Ephesians 4:32 - and be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (KJV)

One of the most important lessons Jesus taught his disciples was that they were to forgive their fellow man. Jesus spent a large portion of his ministry teaching about forgiving. Jesus says in Matthew 6:14-15: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But, if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (KJV)

Jesus was sincere in his teachings of the importance of forgiving. Persons who fail to heed his teachings on forgiving goes directly against Christian values and ethics.

Jesus instructed his disciples to forgive their fellow man with no limitations. Matthew 18:21-22 says: "Then came Peter to him and said, Lord how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?....Jesus saith unto him, I say

not unto thee, until seven times, but until seventy times seven." (KJV) The Hebrews looked upon seven as being a perfect number. The Bible says that God created the world in 6 days and that he rested on the seventh day. Peter thought there was a limit to the number of times a man should forgive his brother. Jesus corrected Peter by saying there are no limits to the number of times a man should forgive his brother.

The person who sincerely forgives his brother will forget the past transgressions of his brother and seek no personal revenge against him.

The spirit of forgiveness is one of the highest Christian qualities. Christians are a forgiving people. The attitudes of Christians toward their fellow man should be one of forgiving.

Christians who have a forgiving spirit will pray for their fellowman and seek reconciliation when his brother or sister offends them.

**The Ability To Forgive And Forget Is One Of
The Fundamental Teachings Of The Gospel Of
Jesus Christ.**

THOU SHALT NOT GOSSIP

Leviticus 19:16 - Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people (KJV)

One of the greatest challenges that face the contemporary Church Community is to overcome the desire to participate in aimless gossip, which leads to falsehoods and character assassination.

Christians must always be aware that it is more blessed to talk to others for the purpose of helping them than to talk about others for the purpose of harming them.

Gossip and false accusations within the Christian Community is a negative force, which has robbed many otherwise loving Christians of an effective witness within the Church and Community. Rumors spread by Christian brothers and sisters have caused a lot of pain within the Body of Christ. Aimless character assassination serves no spiritual purpose within the Kingdom of God.

The person who participates in negative gossip is on a path of destruction, for when one verbally tears down his brother or sister, he rebels against Christian values and ethics.

Gossip is defined as a groundless rumor, or idle chatter. The Bible gives a stern warning against gossip. Psalms 50:20 says: "Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son." (KJV)

Aimless gossip has a way of returning to the participant. For many times the person

who participates in gossip becomes the object of gossip himself. Building up one's brother or sister through prayer and fellowship is much more beneficial than tearing them down through gossip and false rumors. The Bible says in Romans 14:10-12: "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God"...Every person will give an account of himself to God therefore; speak well of your brother for it is the Christian way.

**Groundless Gossip Has Caused A Lot Of Pain
Within The Christian Family. It Has No Place In
Christian Fellowship.**