



Sound Doctrine: Applying Core Beliefs to Everyday Life

Zoology: What we need to know about the Christian Life

Zoology defined: The word "zoe-ology" comes from two Greek words. The word "zoe" meaning *life*, and the word "logia" meaning "word" or *discourse*. Put them together and we have the study, or discourse, concerning life. In particular, it's the life God's word reveals, the life of a Christian. Warren Wiersbe wrote: "When the **child** of God... looks into the **Word** of God... and sees the **Son** of God... he is changed by the **Spirit** of God... into the **image** of God... for the **glory** of God."

1. The Pardon of the Christian Life

The Christian life begins with God's pardon for sin, which we refer to as our salvation. The term "saved" is used in the Bible with 3 different tenses and meanings:

1. **JUSTIFICATION**= Past tense- (Eph. 2:8-9)
My POSITION is: I'm "In Christ"
I have been saved from the PENALTY of sin.
2. **SANCTIFICATION**= Present tense- (1 Cor. 1:18)
My CONDITION is: I'm becoming "Like Christ"
I am being saved from the POWER of sin.
3. **GLORIFICATION**= Future tense- (Rom. 10:9)
My EXPECTATION is: I'm going to be "With Christ"
I shall be saved from the very PRESENCE of sin.

From Being in Adam... to being in Christ

Romans 5 teaches us that we're either "in Adam" or "in Christ". All of us are *born* "in Adam" as the federal head of the human race. As a result, we inherit his sinful nature, passed on to us at birth.

The Adamic Nature Characterized:

Our condition before being "*in Christ*" is as follows: We were dead in sin, disobedient to God's ways, demonically influenced and deceived, darkened in our mind, defiled in our flesh, and ultimately doomed and destined to destruction (Eph. 2:1-3). But

God made us alive through the work of Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:4-9).

2. The Passion of the Christian Life

- ❖ A total commitment to worshiping the Lord acceptably (Rom. 12:1).
- ❖ Not conforming to the worldly culture around us (Rom. 12:2^a).
- ❖ Being transformed by the renewal of the mind (Rom. 12:2^b)

3. The Position & Practice of the Christian Life

As believers, the Lord gives us a new standing or position and then we get the honor of putting it into practice. That's what makes up the majority of our Christian life, practicing who we are in Christ.

Position

We are "in Christ"..
We are saved..
We are forgiven..
We are dead to sin..
We are set free..
We are holy..
We are declared righteous..
We are so loved ...
We are crucified to the world...

Practice

We are to abide in Christ
Work out your salvation
We must forgive others
Do not give sin control
Do not submit again to slavery
Be holy in all your conduct
Practice righteousness
So love one another
Do not to love worldly things

4. The Pattern of the Christian Life

There are 4 aspects of being a Christian that relate to abiding in the word of God and involve a continual *pattern* we must *grow* in.

1. **LEARNING** the word (HEAD Knowledge)
The word is *Examined*. Hearing the word!
2. **LOVING** the word (HEART Knowledge)
The word is *Established*. Receiving the word!
3. **LIVING** the word (HAND Knowledge)
The word is *Experienced*. Practicing the word!
4. **LEADING** with the word (HELP Knowledge)
The word is *Explained*. Sharing the word!

5. The Progress of the Christian Life

The Christian life is one that includes continual progress. It is often described as a journey, a walk, a race, and a fight or battle.

The Christian Journey- Heaven Bound

We are sojourners, pilgrims, and aliens. This world is *not* our home. We are citizens of heaven. (1 Pet. 2:11, Heb. 11:13, Phil. 3:20)

The Christian Walk- A Worthy Walk - (Eph. 4:1)

- As imitators of God: we are to walk in love. (Eph. 5:1-2)
- We are to walk as children of light (Eph. 5:7-8)
- We are to walk carefully in wisdom, making the most use of our time to understand the will of God, and to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:15-18)
- We are to walk by faith and not by sight (1 Cor. 5:7)

The Christian Race- Have a Plan

- ✓ Is run well. (Gal. 5:7)
- ✓ Is run to win. (1 Cor. 9:24)
- ✓ Has a 4-point game plan in Heb. 12:1-2:
 - ✧ Surround yourselves with a cloud of witnesses; that is, those who have lived a life of faith, such as those mentioned in chapter 11.
 - ✧ Recognize that sin weighs us down and hinders us from running effectively.
 - ✧ Build endurance. Life throws many things at us that distract us from the race and seek to slow us down and sidetrack us from finishing well or following Christ.
 - ✧ We must fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

The Christian Fight- Battle Ready

Paul often uses the analogy of the Christian life being like a fight.

Not boxing aimlessly, as one beating the air (1 Cor. 9:26)

Fighting the good fight (2 Tim. 4:7, 1 Tim. 6:12^a)

Needing spiritual armor for the battle (Eph. 6:10-13)

Being soldiers that suffer hardship (2 Tim. 2:3)

6. The Portrayal of a Christian

What defines us as believers in Christ and how are we portrayed in Scripture? We are...

Those who abide by the words of Jesus (Jn. 8:31).

Those who have love for one another (Jn. 13:35).

Those who abide in a relationship with Jesus in order to produce much fruit and increase in joy (Jn. 15:1-11)

Disciples who love Jesus supremely and follow Him wherever He leads (Lk. 14:25-33).

Those who compare our afflictions on earth to the eternal glory in heaven (2 Cor. 4:17, Rom. 8:18).

Those who walk in the Spirit and bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-24) and walk differently from the culture of the world.

Summary: The Christian life is all about Jesus Christ. It's a costly life, a seeking life, a focused life, an unselfish life, a life of contentment, at peace with God, a humble life, a disciplined life, a life of faithfulness and fruitfulness towards God, a stewardship, a life of balance and spiritual power. It is meant to be a joyful life of prayerful confidence in the God we serve. It's a life of victory, trust, suffering, persecution, works, giving, and willful obedience to God and His word. We live to apply Peter's last words, "to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior." (2 Pet. 3:18)