

Living Christianly

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How to Live Christianly

The Apostle Peter presents for us in 1 Peter 4:10, 11 a strong answer to our search for the meaning of how to live Christianly. In verse 10, we read, "that each one should use whatever gift he (or she) has received, to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms".

In order to live effectively as a Christian we are to acknowledge that God, in His sovereignty and by His grace, has given gifts we can use in His service. We should glorify God in our lives and secondly, we should bring blessing to others. As this verse says, we should use our gifts to serve others.

In doing so, we are "faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms". That section of the verse is a consolation to us as we realise we are responsible to administer God's grace through the gifts that He has given to us and not through the gifts He has given to others. This is important for us to understand as we seek to live Christianly in our society. God has called us to faithfully administer His grace by exercising the gifts He has given.

1 Peter 4:11 says, "if anyone speaks, that person should do it as one speaking the very words of God, if anyone serves that person should do it with the strength that God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, and the power for ever and ever. Amen."A

Wonderful Example

I once knew a Christian lady by the name of Sarah Minnis. This little woman was my maternal grandmother, and to the amazement of those who knew her, and even those who had met her only briefly, when this lady spoke it was as if the very words of God were being spoken through her. That capacity to speak God's words were because God's words had saturated her mind through consistent, careful and conscientious reading of God's Word and the will to have that Word filling her mind so that whenever she spoke the words of God came through.

My nana was relatively uneducated but the expression in her life of the life of Christ, by what she said and by what she did, was a wonderful example to all who knew her.

"If anyone serves, that person should do it with the strength God provides." In seeking to live Christianly, we must not think that what we do as Christ's ambassador is in our own strength, but rather that we are God's instruments through whom He is reaching others. Only as we see ourselves in this way will we be the distinctive Christian characters that we are exhorted to be in God's Word.

God's Perspective

Whatever area of our Christian lives is in view, we need to strive for an understanding of the Will of God, that is, God's perspective. To know God's perspective requires a transformation of mind - a renewal. This is because we all carry 'baggage' from our past experiences and also our present context. *Our* perspectives have been formed by much that is in "conformity to the pattern of this world" – secular humanism, materialism, hedonism. Therefore, to move towards a Biblical perspective requires a deliberate movement away from the patterns of thinking that are contrary to the Biblically-based viewpoint.

The process of transformation from unregenerant to regenerant development of personhood is based on the development of a Christian mind which is a gift of God, (1 Corinthians 2:16, Romans 8:5-7) and from which humankind responds to God in worship through sacrificial service (Romans 12:1).

Our human viewpoint on living Christianly in our society includes many background experiences, presuppositions, and beliefs that intermingle with our goals and purposes in our present life situations. To understand ourselves, in light of God's perspective it is necessary for us to truly think and live Christianly.

The degree of integrity of God's revealed viewpoint (in creation, in His Word, in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, and by His Holy Spirit) and our faith and life as His disciples, will be the measure of our understanding and practice of living Christianly from a Biblical perspective. This is true of our lives in Australia and also in any society in the world.

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