

The Christian's Responsibility

Christians are ordinary people, not those in name only, but those who have truly repented of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, have trusted Him as personal Saviour. Many people call themselves a Christian, but they have no real understanding of what a true Christian is. Those of us who have trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour have a responsibility to Him. And what might that be?

Well, first, God did not force Himself on us; of our own free will we chose to heed His warning and came to Him for forgiveness and salvation. "... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." {Luke 13:5}

At the very moment of salvation, a repentant sinner is not only forgiven, but also sealed by God's Holy Spirit. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," {Ephesians 1:13} A true Christian is eternally saved **AND** sealed; it is literally impossible for one to lose salvation. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." {John 10:28}

God, in His Word the Bible, tells us that we were **REDEEMED**. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" {Galatians 3:13} "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" {Colossians 1:14} "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity," {Titus 2:14 a} "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18-19}

When God forgave and saved us, He also adopted us as His children. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" {John 1:12} "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;" {Romans 8:16-17 a} "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;" {Ephesians 2:19}

Because we have been forgiven of our sin debt [we are still sinners but now sinners saved by grace] we now have not a responsibility but **THE** responsibility to live our lives in a manner that brings honor and glory to our wonderful Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Because we belong to Him and we are indwelt by His Holy Spirit. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." {1 Corinthians 6:19-20} We are further told that, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed [to be fashioned] to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." {Romans 12:1-2}

So, what does all of this mean for the Christian? It means that we must be careful about **EVERYTHING** we do and say, the places we go, how we dress. This does not mean that we cannot enjoy life and have fun. When we talk, whether in private or in public, we must choose our words wisely and our speech seasoned with salt. It is wrong for Christians to use foul language or even many of the euphemisms that lost people use. It means we must be selective in how we dress, both for men and women. It means we must avoid places of public nudity and the like. Even in the privacy of our homes we need to be careful about what is watched on TV or videos or the video games played. It does not matter where we may be; we cannot escape the watchful eye of God. Read Psalm 139 about what King David said about not avoiding God.

My friend, as Christians there is so much in this life that we can enjoy **WITHOUT** adopting the ways of this Christ-rejecting world. Our journey here is brief but in Heaven it is eternal. There are so many people who do not know our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ and how we live our lives before them may very well be the cause of whether they want to trust Him as Saviour also. Our lives are an open book and we do live in a glass house.

Friend, if you are a Christian, a truly repentant and blood bought child of God, are you living your life in a way that brings honor and glory to Jesus Christ? It is your responsibility to do so! It's the responsibility of **ALL** of us!!

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

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/August 2019

All Scripture references are KJV