

As Christians, we are a people called out of darkness into God's wonderful light. WE are a people that belong to God and represent God to the rest of the world as His love and light are shown in our lives. To a lost world, the Christian's life may be the only Bible it reads and so the way we live our lives is of great importance. The Bible gives us guidelines to live by that, when put into practice, will result in a life pleasing to God and one that brings honor to His name. James tells us, "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves, do what it says. (James 1:22 NIV)

As you study the following Christian Life Guidelines, ask the Holy Spirit to help you put them into practice. As you apply God's guidelines to your life, they will produce spiritual fruit for "It (*God's Word*) shall not return to me empty" says the Lord (Isaiah 55:11 NASB).

*"...But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light..."* 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

*"...So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us..."* II Corinthians 5:20 (Revised Standard)

*As Christians, it is necessary to:*

**1. Read and study God's Word as it is the rule of faith and practice in our lives.**

"...All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

**II Timothy 3:16, 17**

"...I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

**2. Be baptized in water by immersion as an outward sign of an inward change.**

"...We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4

"...Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matt. 28:19

**3. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit for power to serve God.**

"...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

"...All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enabled them." Acts 2:4

**4. Support the church with your prayers, attendance at services, and with your tithes and offerings.**

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42

“...Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25

“...Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Malachi 3:10

**5. Respect and honor the Pastor as the Shepherd of the flock of God, the ministerial staff and the officers of the church as those called of God to assist the Pastor.**

“...Remember your leaders, who spoke of the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” Hebrews 13:7

“...Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17

**6. Refuse to have any part in slander, backbiting, or gossip about anyone within the church.**

“...A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.” Proverbs 11:13

“...If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.” Galatians 5:15

**7. Maintain daily personal and family devotions.**

“...Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” Matthew 26:41

“...And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

**8. Refuse to fellowship with or support any person who advocates false doctrines.**

“...If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.” 2 John 10

**9. Seek the salvation of the lost by personal work and by cooperating in all the activities and outreach efforts of the church.**

“...In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

“...Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Mark 16:16

**10. Abstain from worldly practices that are harmful to the body and mind, that are a stumbling block to weaker Christians, and that compromise our testimony to the unsaved. A stumbling block would be anything that would replace Christ on the throne of your life.**

“... Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires...those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.” Romans 8:5,8

“...Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” Ephesians 5:11

“...Set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” I Timothy 4:12

Also; I Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1; Romans 12:1, 2; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 John 2:15-17)

**11. Respect other churches that are preaching the Word of God, whether they be of our fellowship or not.**

“... ‘Master’, said John, We saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.” ‘Do not stop him’, Jesus said, ‘For whoever is not against you is for you’...” Luke 9:49-50

**12. Adhere to the bylaws of the church as to church government.**

“...And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.” I Corinthians 12:2