



STANDARDS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

WE BELIEVE the Scriptures establish basic principles to guide the actions and attitudes of a Christian and that it is the responsibility of each Christian, through constant submission to Christ, to glorify God through the application of these principlesⁱ. We affirm the Scriptures as the Christian's final source of teaching and training for all of life's activities. Consistent reading and study of the Word of God is essential for growth in the Christian life.ⁱⁱ

WE BELIEVE the life of a Christian empowered by the Holy Spirit is characterized by love for and dependence upon God and love toward all people.ⁱⁱⁱ A Christian loves God by worshiping Him,^{iv} giving thanks for all He has done,^v obeying Him,^{vi} and making Him known to others.^{vii} A Christian loves others by sharing their burdens,^{viii} remaining intolerant of their sin,^{ix} forgiving their personal offenses yet seeking to restore them to fellowship with the Lord,^x demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit--love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,^{xi} and loving others as himself.^{xii}

WE BELIEVE, for example, that the Scriptures call a Christian to be joyful,^{xiii} to trust in God,^{xiv} to live a life of holiness in the world,^{xv} to exhibit humility and honesty,^{xvi} to deny self in submission to the sovereignty of Christ^{xvii} and to be a faithful steward of things God has given--mind, time, abilities, funds, and opportunities.^{xviii}

WE BELIEVE that a Christian must strive to live a life in which Christ is Lord of all thoughts, actions, and words. A Christian must recognize that there are actions and attitudes that are inconsistent and inappropriate, such as sinning against the body of Christ or one's own body. A Christian led by the Holy Spirit will, after prayer and studying the Scriptures, exercise freedom responsibly with loving regard for the sensitivities and weaknesses of others.^{xix}

WE FURTHER BELIEVE that, based on Scriptural teaching and concern for our individual and corporate witness, we must refrain from practices such as sexual impurity, marital infidelity, gossiping, greed, illegal drug use, licentiousness, drunkenness and other excesses.^{xx} By God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Christian should seek to grow in godliness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ. In so doing, Christ is given all glory and his redeeming love is on display for all to see.

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- ⁱ Ex. 20; Mt. 5:16; Lk. 11:28; Acts 5:29; Mt. 6:33
- ⁱⁱ 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16
- ⁱⁱⁱ Phil. 1:9-11; Jn. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 13:8; 1 Cor. 13:1; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Th. 4:9; 1 Pet. 4:8
- ^{iv} Mt. 4:10
- ^v Col. 3:17; 1 Th. 5:18; Eph. 5:20
- ^{vi} 1 Jn. 2:3-6
- ^{vii} Mk. 16:15; Rom. 1:16
- ^{viii} Gal. 6:2
- ^{ix} Rom. 13:14
- ^x Mt. 18:21-22; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; Lk. 6:27-28; 32-35; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Pet. 3:9
- ^{xi} Gal. 5:17-23
- ^{xii} Rom. 13:9
- ^{xiii} Neh. 8:10; Ps. 5:11; Jn. 15:11
- ^{xiv} 1 Jn. 2:23; 2 Chr. 20:20; Isa. 26:4; Heb. 2:13
- ^{xv} Rom. 12:1; Eph. 1:4; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 1 Jn. 2:15-17
- ^{xvi} Col. 3:8-12; 1 Th. 4:12
- ^{xvii} Mt. 16:24; Rom. 12:16; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:3-4
- ^{xviii} 1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 5:15-16, 18; Mt. 6:19-21; Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 6:16
- ^{xix} 1 Cor. 8:9,13; Rom. 14
- ^{xx} 1 Pet. 1:13-16; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:17-24; Jas. 3:2-10; Phil. 4:8-9