

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

A DISCIPLINED CHRISTIAN (PART 1)

Scripture Reading:

- “¹Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; ² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. ³ For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: ⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: ⁵ Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. ⁶ For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. ⁷ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (1 Pet 4:1-7).
- “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

Introduction:

- A. Biblical discipline is defined as: (1) Instruction and Training – to learn, (2) To train or develop by instruction and exercise, especially in self-control, (3) Discipline is to study, learn, train, and apply a system of standards.
- B. The Disciplined Christian expresses a control in their lives that is gained by enforcing obedience. Marathon runners discipline themselves to be in top physical condition. The marathon participants must discipline themselves to run twenty-six miles in any kind of weather. Also, they cannot allow the crowds to distract them from the marathon. Disciplined Christians live by a pattern of behavior that expresses the control they have gained.
- C. A Disciplined Christian expresses self-control gained by becoming obedient to Christ, who lives by a pattern of behavior empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit.
- D. William McPherson was the superintendent for a stone quarry when a blast severely injured him. He lost his eyesight and both hands in the explosion. **He was determined to read the Bible**, and learned to read raised letters with the tip of his tongue. It is said that he read through the Bible four times in this manner.

Study Question #1:

How much of your life has been brought under the control of Christ?

Study Question #2:

How obedient are you as a Christian?

Study Question #3:

Is your pattern of behavior any different from that of people who do not know Christ? If so, how different is your life? How disciplined are you?

Description of a Disciplined Christian (1 Peter 4:7)

“Be ye therefore sober” – means disciplined, to have a sound mind; to be serious; to be in control of oneself and to be self-restrained; to be calm and sensible. 1 Peter 4:1-7 describes the life of a Disciplined Christian.

I. The Disciplined Christian has a Particular Mind (v. 1)

Disciplined Christians have a particular mind – This is the mind of Christ (1 Pet 4:1) Christ suffered unjustly at the hands of wicked men for the cause of righteousness. Jesus never sinned (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; Heb 4:15).

II. The Disciplined Christian has a Mark of Militancy (v. 1)

They are armed for Christian warfare. Christians are truly soldiers of the cross.

- A. The Disciplined Christian lives sincerely and wholeheartedly for Christ. His is a life reflection of Christ.
- B. Unbelievers (the world), often ridicule, mock, abuse, unjustly treat and in some situations kill Christians for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Point to Point:

Christ gave up his life so that we may have eternal life. We must be willing to do the same – suffer and die for the cause of Christ.

Study Question:

Just how far are you willing to go for Christ? Are you willing to suffering and die for Christ?

III. The Disciplined Christian has a New Life (v. 2)

- A. Disciplined Christians live according to the Word of God.
- B. The past life (“The Old Man”) was an undisciplined life – A life of sin and disrespect toward God.

Point to Point:

A life without Christ is a life without hope or meaning.

- C. The New Life (“The New Man”) calls for a change – God’s way of living.

Point to Point:

A New Life in Christ provides a new birth, a change in our relationship with God, a lasting relationship, a change in our position, attitude, behavior, and destination.

IV. The Disciplined Christians Life is Misunderstood (v. 4)

A disciplined life is considered a strange life. Former friends are surprised and speak evil of us. Jesus informed us to expect it (Matt 5:10-12). There are times that we must stand alone, even as Jesus did.

Points to Ponder:

1. Give an account in which you were ridiculed or ostracized for your faith in Christ.
2. It is estimated that 11 Christians are killed every day for their decision to follow Christ (Open Doors).
 - ❖ If you were confronted about your decision to follow Christ, would you continue with your decision to follow Christ or **disown** Him?

Memory Verse:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

Conclusion:

- A. The Disciplined Christian has a Particular Mind, a Mark of Militancy, a New Life, and a Misunderstood Life.
- B. I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.
- C. You've been running and running, Running for a long time
Your time is winding up, You better make up your mind
It's getting late in the evening, The sun is going down
Better get right, get right, While he may be found

You got to work, Got to work, Work while it's day,
For the night Is coming, When you can't find your way
Oh, sinner, I wonder What will you do
You better choose today, tomorrow's not promised to you.
- D. **Roman Road: (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).