

# CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## GUIDELINES FOR GODLY LIVING

### SCRIPTURE READING:

“<sup>1</sup>Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? <sup>2</sup>He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. <sup>3</sup>He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. <sup>4</sup>In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. <sup>5</sup>He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved” (Ps 15:1-5).

### INTRODUCTION:

#### **A. Psalm 15 is ascribed to the authorship of David.**

He raised two thought-provoking questions in verse 1: “**Lord, who shall abide in they tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?**” David is asking who is worthy to dwell in God’s presence and be a member of His holy church. David then goes on to list the guidelines of such a person, essentially providing a set of standards or principles for those who are approved by God and enjoy fellowshiping with Him.

#### **B. God calls His people to live holy lives. Our standards for godly living do not come from our evil society but from God.**

#### **C. Godly Standards versus Worldly Standards**

- 1. Godly Standards** – emphasize the importance of living a life that reflects God’s Will and principles; the focus is on pleasing and glorifying God. Godly Standards are rooted in the Word of God.
- 2. Earthly Standards** – consists of the values and desires of the world. Its focus is on self, greed, and covetousness. It lacks Godly Standards and conflicts with God’s Will.

### PROPOSITION:

**In this Bible Study, we will ponder eleven standards or Guidelines for Godly Living.**

#### **I. “HE THAT WALKETH UPRIGHTLY” (v. 2a)**

**Uprightly** means blameless, integrity, sincerely sound, without blemish, without hypocrisy.

##### **A. We must live a life characterized by honesty and integrity.**

We must live righteously in our daily conduct, especially in our relationships with others and our actions toward them.

##### **B. We must be above reproach so that no one can Honestly bring a charge or accusation against us.**

- “Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him” (Acts 25:2).
- “Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ” (1 Pet 3:16).

II. **HE MUST “WORKETH RIGHTEOUSNESS”** (v. 2b)

**Righteousness** means just, accurate, justice

A. **We must do what is right, separating ourselves from sin and worldliness.**

B. **Our walk (conduct) must be with a sincere intent that aligns with the Word of God.**

We must seek to please God in all our actions toward others.

C. **We are called to practice righteousness as evidence of our faith and transformation in Christ.**

- “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous” (1 John 3:7).

III. **HE MUST “SPEAKETH TRUTH IN HIS HEART”** (v. 2c)

**Truth** refers to faithful, truthful, correct, verity

A. **We must be truthful, honest, and sincere in our words (oral communications).**

B. **We must always be truthful in our speech. Let your word be your bond. Let your Yes mean Yes and your No mean No.**

- “But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Matt 5:37).

- “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col 4:6).

IV. **“HE THAT BACBITETH NOT WITH HIS TONGUE”** (v. 3a)

**Backbite** refers to slandering or speaking evil of someone, especially when they are not present. It also refers to gossiping, mudslinging, and character assassination.

A. **We are to refrain from slander and gossiping (harmful talk) about others.**

B. **Before repeating a matter – consider the following before speaking:**

1. **Is it True?** Speaking rumors and false accusations can damage relationships, and cause unnecessary conflict.
2. **Is it Necessary?** Does the information need to be shared, or is it better to keep it to yourself.
3. **Is it Kind?** Will repeating the information cause harm or distress to others.
  - “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends” (Prov 17:9).

“This past year, if someone had paid you ten dollars for **every kind word** you ever spoke about other people, and also collected five dollars for **every unkind word**, would you be rich or poor?” – (Michael P. Green)

V. **HE DOES NO EVIL TO HIS NEIGHBOR** (v. 3b)

**Evil** refers to harm, adversities, calamities, discomfort, evil deeds, wickedness

**A. Our whole motive should be to help, encourage, support, instruct and to love others, Be kind and respectful toward others.**

**B. Be mindful of Christ's Second Commandment – "Love They Neighbor"**

- "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matt 22:39).

- **Love Fulfills God's Requirements**

"<sup>8</sup>Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>10</sup>Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom 13:8-10).

VI. **HE DOES NOT TAKETH UP A REPROACH AGAINST HIS NEIGHBOR** (v. 3c)

**Reproach** refers to disgrace, shame or a cause of shame or blame. It also refers to being an object of scorn (a loss of respect, honor, or disapproval).

**A. We should not say anything that is questionable about others.**

We should be careful not to suggest anything that will bring reproach on another person.

- "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins" (Prov 10:12).

**B. We should look for ways to edify others and to esteem others better than ourselves.**

- "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom 14:19).

- "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil 2:3).

"He doth not take away or diminish his neighbour's good name, either by denying him his due praises, or by laying any thing to his charge falsely, or without sufficient cause and evidence." – Matthew Poole

VII. **HE DESPISES A VILE PERSON** (v. 4a)

**Despise** means to look down on or treat with contempt – to treat with disrespect or disregard, showing no regard for their value or importance; to make light of, or to minimize or to take no thought of.

**A. We are to reject a person's evilness and wickedness. Do not offer excuses for the behavior of ungodly people.**

**B. Do not idolize the sinful behavior of those living in open sin and immorality.**

- C. We should not idolize the wicked nor associate with them** (2 Cor 6:14-18).
- “<sup>1</sup>Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. <sup>2</sup>Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment” (Exod 23:1-2).
  - “I would rather stand alone in the light of truth than in the crowd filled with error.” – Adrian Rogers
  - “A lie doesn’t become truth, wrong doesn’t become right and evil doesn’t become good just because it is accepted by the majority.” – Booker T. Washington

**VIII. HE HONORS THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD** (v. 4b)

**Fear the Lord** refers to a reverential respect and obedience to God, recognizing His authority and holiness.

**A. We are to show respect for Believers and those who are committed to God – hold them in high esteem, love them and show them great respect and kindness.**

**B. When a Believer is walking with the Lord (living according to the Bible), we should walk with them.**

- “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Ps 133:1).
- Believers are Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Therefore, they should maintain unity, keeping the Spirit of God alive and avoiding division.
- Believers are to support each other through difficulties, offering encouragement, prayer, and practical help.

**IX. HE IS TO KEEP HIS WORD AND CHANGE NOT** (v. 4c)

**Keeping Our Word** refers to honoring one’s oaths and promises, even when it is difficult or costly.

**A. We must be faithful to our promises, even when it is difficult, costly or inconvenient.**

**B. When we keep our word, it reflects a commitment to truth and integrity.**

**C. The Bible teaches against rash vows and encourages keeping promises rather than making them and not fulfilling them.**

- “<sup>4</sup>When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. <sup>5</sup>Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. <sup>6</sup>Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?” (Eccl 5:4-6).

- **Standing by a Promise Made**

Once he has made a promise, he stands by it, even if it results in financial loss. A Believer, for example, might agree to sell his house for \$85,000. But before the papers are signed, he finds he could have sold the house to a large development company for \$90,000. But he has given his word to the first buyer – and he keeps his contract (Believer’s Bible Commentary).

Our vows should be taken seriously and kept – Do not renege on your word to God and others.

**X. HE LENDS MONEY WITHOUT DEMANDING INTEREST (v. 5a)**

**A. We should practice generosity and avoid exploiting or taking advantage of others by charging or demanding interest.**

**B. Keep in mind, those who need to borrow from you may be in a desperate situation to satisfy their debts. Therefore, we should not exploit them in their time of need.**

**C. If we truly love and care for others, we will use our resources to help them, not take advantage of their unfortunate situation to profit ourselves at their expense.**

**XI. DO NOT ACCEPT A BRIBE AGAINST THE INNOCENT (v. 5b)**

**A. We are to refuse bribes and uphold justice for the innocent. This shows our commitment to integrity and justice, aligning with the Biblical call to uphold righteousness.**

**B. We are to always maintain moral integrity and protect the innocent which reflects God’s justice and righteousness.**

**C. We are to be fair and impartial and fair, mirroring God’s character in our dealings with others.**

**D. Always live righteously and follow God’s commandments.**

- “You can do what’s right and you could do what’s wrong; but in deciding, remember that right is always right, wrong is always wrong and there is never a right time to do a wrong thing.” – Dr. Shelton Smith

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**“<sup>13</sup> Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup> For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Eccl 12:13-14).**

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **A. Trust and Obey**

When we walk with the Lord, In the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way; While we do His good will,  
He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

### **B. I Shall Not Be Moved**

I shall not be, I shall not be moved.  
I shall not be, I shall not be moved;  
Like a tree planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved, be moved.

### **C. ABC's of Salvation**

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Teaching Ministry of:  
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Corinth Christian Fellowship  
June 15, 2025

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