



New Life - New Lifestyle

When we become a Christian we no longer live for ourselves but we live for God.

Becoming a Christian is all about **giving up the rights and claims we have** on our lives and allowing God to change us and use us as He wants. For this to fully happen God starts a wonderful work of transformation within us - but he calls us to co-operate with that which His Word and Spirit are doing.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) How do you expect to change as a Christian?

Q2) What areas / attitudes in your life do you think you will struggle to change?

Q3) What things do you think you can do that will help you change to be more like Jesus?

One of the greatest early Christians was a man named Paul. He wrote much of the letters found in the New Testament. Paul believed that there were certain truths that every Christian needed to understand if they were to grow and be a real follower of Jesus. These truths were not only to be understood with the mind, but accepted and lived out in the heart and lifestyle.

So what are these truths that Paul calls us to respond to that will help us grow as Christian?

Truth 1 - In Christ we are Born Again!!

Jesus made it clear in John 3 v 1 - 5 that when you give your life to Him there is a spiritual new birth that takes place.

Where once we were dead spiritually, dead to God and His reality, now through Christ we have come to life.

John 3 v 1 - 8 says _____

What does Ephesians 2 v 1 – 10 tell us? _____

Truth 2 - Called to put off our Old Nature

Part of our new commitment to Jesus is that we develop a lifestyle that is pleasing to Him. This means that we have to make real decisions to take out of our lives old attitudes, behaviour, habits, activities, even relationships that would lead us into sin and temptation. The way we do this is by making Godly decisions - cutting off the root of a temptation and setting our will to obey God's Word. What has Christ done for us ? Romans 6 v 1 - 14 _____

What are we commanded to do? Ephesians 4 v 20 -23 _____

Truth 3 - Called to put on the New Nature.

We put on the new nature that is of Christ by choosing to follow in His footsteps and being obedient to His Word in our daily lives. There is a sense that each day we need to put on Christ, almost as we would put on new clothes. Ephesians 4 v 24 – 32 reminds us of this _____

Truth 4 - Called to submit to one another

The bible makes it clear that God resists the arrogant and proud. That means He actually stands against them and withholds His provision from their daily lives. As a result of this we are called as Children of God to submit to each other in Christian love. This means that we don't boss each other around, but in the church submit to one another whether the leaders, the church meeting, or each other.

James 4 v 1 –10 says _____

Truth 5 - Stand Strong - persevere and you will withstand!!

One of the simple facts about becoming a Christian is that once you give your life to Jesus you enter into a spiritual battle. In every sense a Christian is at War!! Our foe is called the devil and he wishes to undermine, compromise and destroy the work of God in our lives. We are commanded as a Christian to offer total resistance against the devil and stand in the power and authority that Jesus has given us.

1 Peter 5 v 5 - 11 & Ephesians 6 v10 -18 shows us the way _____

