

Our Life in Christ

As Christians we are called to live our lives according to the will of God. This brief study summarizes our life in Christ using three “T” words:

Be Transformed
Touch Others
Life Together

Be Transformed

God wants us to be transformed people. The change involves a complete change in the way that we think, act, talk, and relate to others. Paul describes this transformation in Romans 12 as an act of worship for the Christian. Transformation requires that we walk with God through Bible study and prayer, that we aim high adopting God’s standards and cooperate with His Spirit, and that we stay focused on the task.

(1) Walk with God

Bible study

The Word of God reveals the God’s nature, His will, and His heart. As we study the Bible we gain understanding about God and His calling on our life. There is no better way to gain an understanding of God than to understand the stories of God’s people in the Bible. For us as Christians, the Bible becomes our guiding reference.

Ps 25, 119:1-16; Rom 15:4

Characters: Josiah (2 Kings 22:1f), Ezra (Ezra 7:10), Apollos (Acts 18:24f)

Prayer

Prayer expresses our belief that God is involved in this world and in our lives. God invites us to ask, seek, and knock on his door. In prayer we express our faith, we confess our sins, we challenge our doubts, we shout our joys, and we cry our fears and struggles before our God who cares.

Psalms 17, 86; Eph 6:10-20; Matt 6:5-15

Characters: Jesus (Lk 5:16, 6:12f)

(2) Aim High

Adopt God’s Standards

When God created the world it was perfect. Although we will never experience that level of perfection in this life, God still calls us to adopt His creation intent as our reference point and goal. While God offers grace and forgiveness, He expects us to actively change how we think, what we value, and how we behave until we imitate Christ. God wants us to “Aim High.”

Rom 12:9-21; Eph 4:17-6:4; Matt 5:17-48

Characters: Jesus (Phil 2:3-11)

Cooperate with God

When we accepted Christ as our Savior and were baptized into His death and resurrection God began a process of transforming us. God gives us His Spirit who helps us overcome sin. This process of transformation involves a combination of our effort and God’s power.

We are called to cooperate with God in our transformation by orienting our mind on God things and using our bodies for doing good.

Rom 8:5-17; John 16:5-11; Phil 2:12-13

(3) Stay Focused

Remove Distractions

God calls us to be single minded in our purpose, actions, and efforts. We are called to trust God completely rather than relying upon our own efforts, abilities, plans, technology or looks. Our life in Christ takes

priority over everything else in this world. Staying focused means seeking God’s will for the use of our time, our skills, our careers, and our relationships. Staying focused means constantly simplifying our lives so that we have time to serve others.

Matt 6:25-34; 10:37-39; Phil 3:7-14; Rom 12:3-8

Touch Others

As Christians we enjoy the blessing of God’s salvation so that we can bless others.

Through the church, composed of people being transformed into the image of Christ, Christ continues to extend His grace, love, and call for salvation. Our life as Christians is a life of touching others with good deeds and the message of Christ.

(4) Show Love to Others

Our life in Christ is guided by the pattern of Christ himself. We are called to imitate Christ, who showed the love and compassion of God to us, while we were still sinners. God continues to show compassion to people of all kinds through us. Compassion comes in many forms including offering our time, our money, our efforts, our forgiveness to anyone in need.

Matt 18:21-35, Lk 10:25-37, 2 Cor 8:1-7

(5) Share Christ with Others

Our ministry in the name of Jesus also includes bringing the message of Christ to others and helping each other live out our commitments to Jesus. Sharing the message involves showing love, sacrificing for the sake of others, confessing our faith, and teaching.

Matt 28:19-20, 2 Cor 5:16-21, Heb 4:1-2

Life **T**ogether

(6) Share in Community

When we were baptized into Christ, we joined a new community of God's people, the church. Our attitudes and relationships in this new community are guided by our identity as the body of Christ. In the Old Testament, God was displeased with the people of Israel because they failed to establish a society which reflected God's values. They failed to enact fair justice. They honored wealth, power, name, and position. As the new people of God, our old identities based upon race, gender, wealth, history, career, or any other social measures are meaningless. Instead, God calls us into close relationship with one another demonstrating unity and reflecting the unity of God. The unity of the church is displayed in our concern for each other and in the things we do together, such as worship, prayer, and ministry efforts. It is also reflected in the fact that we treat our possessions and blessings as if they were to be shared with others.

Gal 3:26-29, 1 Cor 3:16^o; 12:12-31; Acts 2:42-47; James 5:13-19; Eph 1

** note the "you" in this verse is plural and is a reference to the church as a whole.*

Seeing Jesus more clearly



**Carbondale
Church of Christ**

*An independent fellowship of
Christians trying to follow God's
will as revealed in the Bible.*

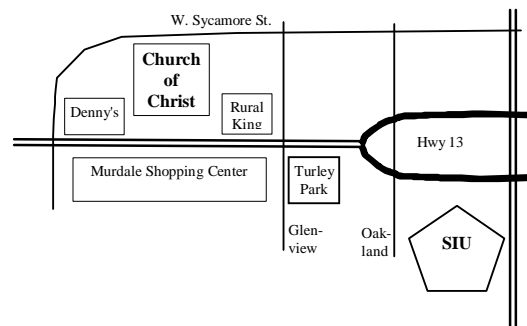
Join Us!

Bible Study: 9:45 A.M.

Worship: 10:45 A.M.

Life Groups: 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Meeting: 6:30 P.M.



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