

How to Live

This week we will look at how the scriptures tell us we should live.

Next week we will focus on 'How to Die':

Phil 1:21 **For to me to live is Christ,** and to die is gain.

When God gave Israel the choice He encouraged them to live unto Him. Temporal, physical life in the promised land under the old testament was a type of spiritual, eternal life under the new testament:

Deut 30:15-20 See, **I have set before thee this day**

• life and good,
and • death and evil;

16 In that I command thee this day

- to love the LORD thy God,
- to walk in his ways,

• and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,

that **I have set before you** **• life and death,**
• blessing and cursing:

therefore **choose life,** that both thou and thy seed may live:

20 That thou mayest love **the LORD thy God,**

and that thou mayest obey his voice,
and that thou mayest cleave unto him:

for **he is thy life,** and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

As the Lord thy God was their life so Christ is our life:

Col 3:4 When **Christ, who is our life,** shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

How are we supposed to live? **We should joyfully sing unto God:**

Psa 104:33 **I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live:**
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Psa 146:1-2 Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.
 2 **While I live will I praise the LORD:**
I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

How shall we live? **Being justified saints we will live by faith:**

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him:
 but **the just shall live by his faith.**

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to
 faith: **as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is
 evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.**

Heb 10:38-39 Now **the just shall live by faith:**
 but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
 39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition;**
but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

How ought we to live? **We live 'in Christ':**

Acts 17:28 **For in him we live, and move, and have our being;** as
 certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

By being 'in Christ' we are a new creation a new building:

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be **in Christ, he is a new creature:**
 old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

When we are 'in Christ' we live in true liberty.

That is **liberty to live as we 'should' not as we 'please':**

Gal 2:4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who
 came in privily to spy out our **liberty which we have in Christ Jesus,**
 that they might bring us into bondage:

Liberty is not 'permission' to sin but an opportunity to serve others:

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

We are **MADE free** to live by the **truth** and by **Christ**:

John 8:32, 36 And ye shall know the truth,
and **the truth shall make you free.**

36 If **the Son** therefore **shall make you free,** ye shall be free indeed.

May we be strong in the freedom and grace (2 Tim 2:1) we have in Christ:

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Do you wish there was a book like "Plain Talk for How to Live"? GOD's book includes chapters on that very subject. How about this check-list?

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims,
● **abstain from fleshly lusts,** which war against the soul;

12 Having **your conversation honest** among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by **your good works, which they shall behold,** glorify God in the day of visitation.

13 ● **Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake:** whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16 **As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness (malice, ill-will, desire to injure, depravity, wickedness that is not ashamed to break laws), but as the servants of God.**

17 ● **Honour all men.**

● **Love the brotherhood.**

● **Fear God.**

● **Honour the king.**

18 ● Servants (like employees),

be subject to your masters (bosses, employers) with all fear;
not only to the good and gentle,
but also to the froward (unfair, crooked, wicked).

'Grace' is not an excuse for us to sin and walk after the lusts of our flesh:

Rom 6:1-4 What shall we say then?

Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall **we, that are dead to sin**, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life**.

If the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, lives in us (Rom 8:9-10)

then we will want to please God in our walk by keeping His commandments

(1 Thess 4:1-2). His Spirit will compel us to honor Him in the way we live:

Rom 6:10-13 For in that he died, he died unto sin once:

but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.**

13 **Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God,** as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as **instruments of righteousness** unto God.

• **Obedience to God's laws is not legalism.**

• **Disobedience is not Christian liberty:**

Rom 6:14-17 For sin shall not have dominion over you:

for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? **shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.**

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey;

- whether of sin unto death,
- or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that **ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

If we DON'T do what we should do

and we DO do what we ought NOT to do

then this indicates we are NOT what we claim to be.

As sinners, we were yielding to uncleanness and iniquity.

But now as saints, we are supposed to yield to righteousness and holiness:

Rom 6:18-20 Being then made free from sin,
ye became the servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh:
for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity
unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness
unto holiness.

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

**Living in sin because we know grace abounds (Rom 5:20) is not the
fruit of grace, but rather evidence that we do not know grace:**

Rom 6:21 What fruit had ye then in **those things whereof ye are now
ashamed**? for the end of those things is death.

We are to have 'holy fruit'

living proof and evidence of a changed nature:

Rom 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to
God, ye have your fruit unto **holiness**, and the end everlasting life.

Godly sorrow will work repentance to salvation in us (2 Cor 7:10). God's

love will restrain us from sin as we sense conviction about how we live:

2 Cor 5:14-15 For the love of Christ **constraineth us;**
because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:
15 And that he died for all,
that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves,
but unto him** which died for them, and rose again.

God provided clear instructions for how we should live as Christians:

Rom 12:9-21 • Let love be without dissimulation (**sincere, undisguised**).

- Abhor (**have a horror of**) that which is evil;
- cleave to that which is good.
- 10 • Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;
- 11 • Not slothful in business;
- fervent in spirit;
- serving the Lord;
- 12 • Rejoicing in hope;
- patient in tribulation;
- continuing instant in prayer;
- 13 • Distributing to the necessity of saints;
- given to hospitality.
- 14 • Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
- 15 • Rejoice with them that do rejoice,
- and weep with them that weep.
- 16 • Be of the same mind one toward another.
- Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.
- Be not wise in your own conceits.
- 17 • Recompense to no man evil for evil.
- Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
- 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you,
- live peaceably with all men.
- 19 Dearly beloved,
- avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath:
for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
- 20 Therefore
- if thine enemy hunger, feed him;
- if he thirst, give him drink:
for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
- 21 • Be not overcome of evil,
- but • overcome evil with good.

We are not alone in how we live (or die). Our life (or death) affects others:

Rom 14:7-9 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived,
that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

We are commanded by God to walk in His Spirit not after our own desires. Many times I have heard it said, that people are going to do what they want to do. However, the Bible teaches us NOT to give in to our flesh:

Gal 5:16-26 This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

17 For **the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:**

and **these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Fleshly works are not the description of the pattern of a believer's life:

19 Now **the works of the flesh are manifest**, which are these;

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Godly living is 'how to live' in God in Christ in the Spirit:

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also **walk in the Spirit.**

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

When you plan 'how you live' remember to include, "If the Lord will":

James 4:13-17 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that **ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.**

16 But now ye rejoyce in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

When we live unto the Lord the way we should this evil world will persecute us for it. The disciple is not above His Master (Matt 10:24):

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

It is God's grace that teaches us to live unto God, and how to live for Him:

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

How did God tell His children to live? The timeless truth still holds today:

Deut 10:12 And now, Israel,

what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but

- to fear the LORD thy God,
- to walk in all his ways,
- and to love him,
- and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;

and what doth the LORD require of thee, but

- to do justly,
- and to love mercy,
- and to walk humbly with thy God?

With all He has done for us let us serve Him with a thankful heart

as long as we have breath to live:

Psa 63:3-4 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life,
my lips shall praise thee.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"

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The Magnified Word

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