

Christian Life Example

What does a Christian life example look like? How does one go about leading an exemplary Christian life within the home as well as outside the home? Should there be any difference? These are just a few of the many questions that we have when it comes to our daily walk with Christ and being stewards of his name.

Walking in a Foreign Land

Late in 2003, a survey conducted by the Barna research group concluded that only 4% of Americans had a biblical worldview. That is a belief that your primary existence is to love and serve God.¹ This is a staggering statistic that would make Christians leading their daily life in a God pleasing manner look like foreigners in our own land. The world is going to look at Christians as odd or different; or perhaps you have heard someone say, "You just think you're so much better than all of us." Jesus is not a part of their (unbelievers) lives, their lives are consumed by sin, and so a sin filled life is natural to them. This viewpoint is mentioned in the New Testament, **"He was a stranger to the world because the world into which he came was estranged from God"** (John 1:11). This isn't to say that we are without sin. We too live in sin, but through the grace of God we are forgiven, **"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace"** (Ephesians 1:7)

The Truth According to Scripture/Daily Application

Our human nature is one to question that which is different. This foreign or Christian lifestyle will naturally provoke questioning and or ridicule, which is an open window to let our light shine. The Lord commands his followers to **"always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you"** (1 Peter 3:15). Let us constantly be aware of our biblical worldview and not let society's sinful ways infiltrate into our daily walk. This includes avoiding gossiping situations, staying away from offensive language or jokes, refraining from unethical practices in the workplace, and showing love and compassion to others even if we have differing viewpoints. So let these biblical truths guide us in our daily life situations:

1. Work and outside relationships...1 Timothy 6:11 - "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness"
1 Peter 2:12 - "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

2. Governing authorities...Romans 13: 1-6-Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. **2** Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. **3** For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.

Many of the above situations also apply to us being a Christian life example in our immediate and extended family. If we have family members that are not followers of Christ, then being a Christian Life Example will definitely fall in the realm of being foreign to them just as we covered earlier. However, what about those family members that are already Christians? Well, this is where leadership comes in to play, leadership from being a parent all the way down to being an older sibling. Attending worship services, being an active member within your church, family devotions, open prayer, teaching and admonishing your children. Verbalizing how God plays an active role in our life path and how he has been evident in life experiences. Look to God's word for guidance and support in being a Christian life example within your family.

1. Deuteronomy 4:9-10 -Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children."
2. Deuteronomy 6:6-9- "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."
3. Ephesians 6:4 - "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

We, as Christians need to diligently immerse ourselves with God's word through prayer, studying and meditation. Building a strong foundation is key to living a life according to

His word. As we grow our relationship with Christ, his truths will be at the forefront of our minds and will naturally be demonstrated in our Christian walk of life.

¹ Focus on the Family. "What's Your View of the World" by Del Tackett.