

As believers in Christ, why must we live to abide by His Word?

Eph. 1:3-5: "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."

1Peter 2:9: "You *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Eph. 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Gal. 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

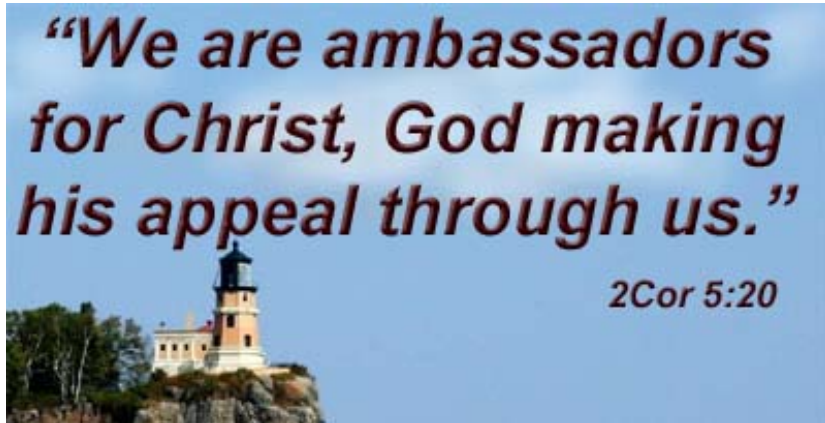
What did Jesus command us on this?

John 14:15: "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

John 8:31: "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed."

Let's ask ourselves, "Does my life line up with my confession of faith in Christ?"

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What is God's purpose for us to live to follow His Word and live to identify with Christ?

John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

John 8:31-32: "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 15:9: "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."

Romans 6:4: "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

2John 6: "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it."

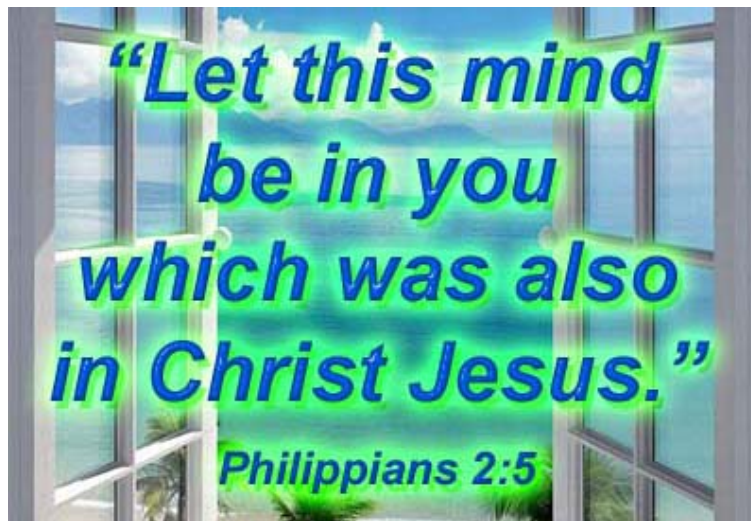
Col 1:28: "So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ."

And the ultimate purpose is:

Philippians 3:20: "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Does my life display the light of Christ as His ambassador, at home, at work, or everywhere for that matter?

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What must the focus of our lives be in order to identify with, and be a testimony for Christ?

Col 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught."

Col 3:1-2: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Romans 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

What are Jesus' teachings and commands on this?

Luke 9:23: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

And finally, 2Cor. 10:5 tells us that this is accomplished by: "Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

How dedicated am I to focus on Christ as a testimony to my commitment?

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Do we realize the extreme power of Christ in our lives to carry out the missions He gives us?

Do we also understand that it is not the desires of the flesh that matters to God, but rather to be able to do all things through Christ Jesus to His glory, and be His witnesses to a lost and dying world?

How then do we find the power of God to live to identify with Christ?

1John 3:24: "Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."

Why?

2Tim. 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

Psalm 27:1: "The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

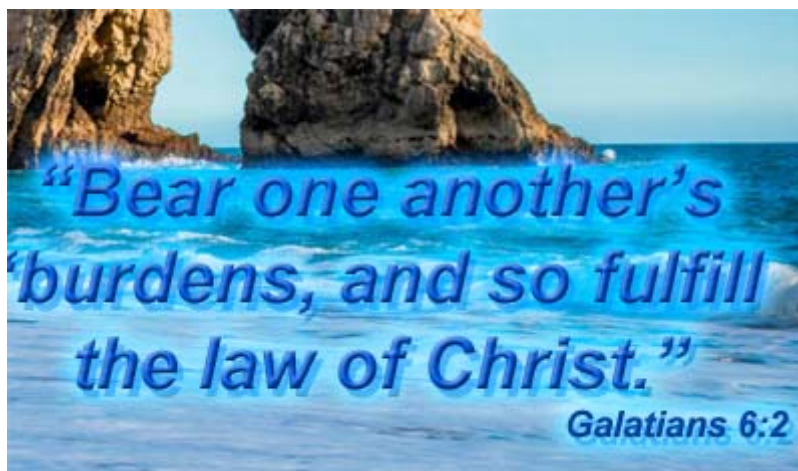
And our secure source is:

Hebrew 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Do I draw from Christ the power to live to be His witness and to His glory?

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What are important applications to identifying with Christ, so that believers and most importantly the world can witness our confession of faith in Christ?

Colossians 3:12: "Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering."

Romans 12:4-5: "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

Luke 6:27-28: "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."

Titus 3:1: "Be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work."

Romans 15:7: "Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God."

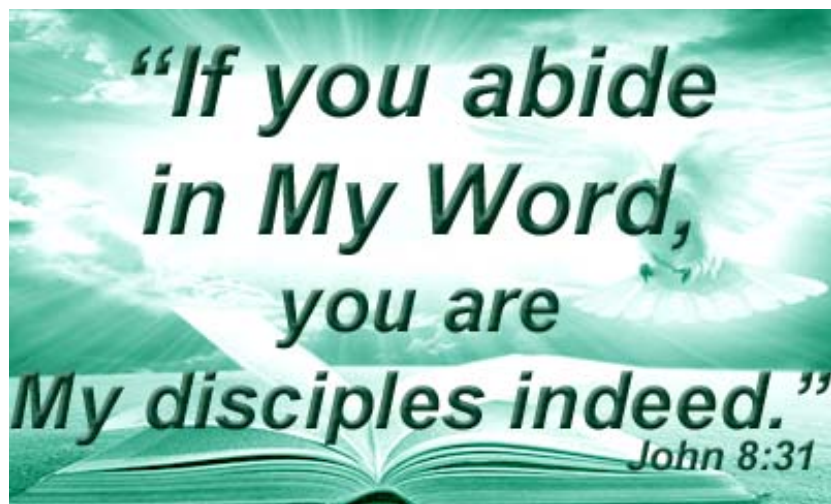
And the greatest proof of identifying with Christ is:

John 15:12: "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:10: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."

How steadfast am I to live to identify with Christ in my daily life, in words, actions and deeds?

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How must we live to abide in Christ, bear fruit and be His disciple?

John 14:21: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

John 15:5: "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

1John 2:5: "But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him."

2John 9: "He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."

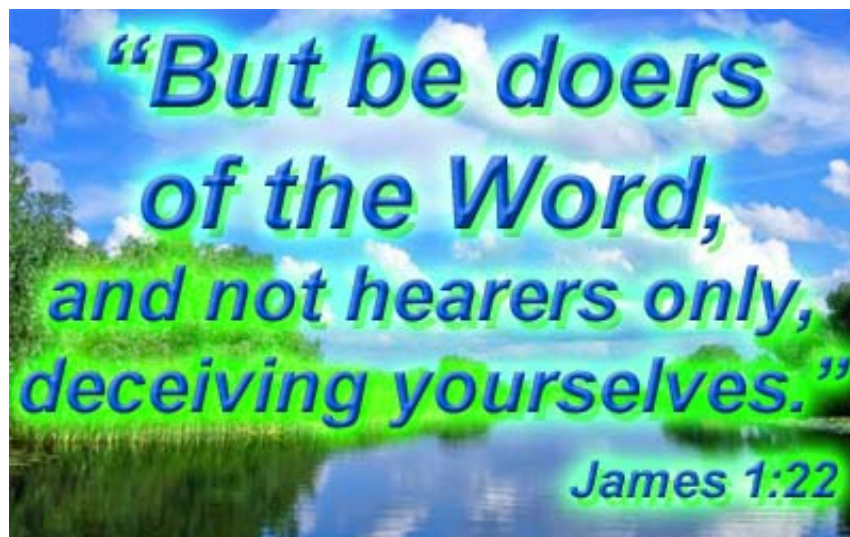
John 15:7-8: "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

2Cor 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Galatians 5:22-24: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Does my life manifest the fruit of the Spirit produced in abiding in Christ and be His disciple?

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Are there warnings in God's Word about hypocrites who profess to love God, yet their life testimony rather demonstrates their love for the world and the flesh?

Jeremiah 7:23: "But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.'"

Malachi 2:2: "If you will not hear, and if you will not take *it* to heart, to give glory to My name," says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, because you do not take *it* to heart."

Matthew 7:26-27: "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Proverbs 10:17: "He who keeps instruction *is in* the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray."

The reason Jesus said in Luke 6:46: "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Serious question: Is my confession of faith from the mouth only, or does my life identifies with Christ as both Savior and Lord?

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