

Has anyone ever walked right up to you and said in a very excited voice, “I LOVE BEING A CHRISTIAN!”? I seriously doubt that has happened and if it did happen you were most likely thinking that this person was a religious nut or maybe they’d just escaped the psych ward of a mental institution. At any rate, you most likely didn’t respond or if you did it was an uncomfortable smile and you moved yourself and loved away quickly.

In our society today when one proclaims their love for God and Jesus they are seen as “bible thumpers”, “holy rollers”, “goody-two shoes”, or as before stated someone who doesn’t have a good grasp on reality. Why is that? Why does the world see the Word deeply implanted in the heart of a follower of Christ and see their excitement of being God’s child and then treat that person as some odd ball freak of nature? Strong words, huh? Well friends, that is the way “the world” sees Christians who partaking in the hope of the abundant life only found in Christ. I guess I shouldn’t say “all people in the world”, but I am stern in the belief that most people don’t find the abundant life because they refuse to see it right there before their face.

Jesus said He came to us to give us “an abundant life” (John 10:10). Once we’re in Christ, God wants us to enjoy ourselves in the Lord. Philippians 4:2 says that we as Christians are to be joyous people. We have got to show our love for the Lord through our actions and our love. Paul told the Colossians that since we’re Christians our mindset must change. Colossians 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. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” These verses tell us that our choice to serve Christ must be purposeful. Jesus will never force Himself upon someone’s life and He will never force the believer to grow in knowledge. It is our choice to take hold of the abundant life that is ever before us. Basically, we must want to, and if we have that desire and want to serve and be partakers of the abundant life Christ offers He’ll equip us for the journey.

As Christians we must put everything out of our hearts and minds that’s detrimental to our spiritual growth. Colossians 3:5-11, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.” When we become a Christian these characteristics don’t come automatically, they have to be cultivated. This is the mind set of those who wish to live the abundant life found only in Christ. If we make this our goal, our mindset then we’ll desire everything God has for us. We’ll use what He has blessed us with to help ourselves and encourage others as we live this life—Waiting—Watching—Working—Until the Lord shall come.

Be that person who tells others about your abundant life in Christ. May God bless you as you work and live in faith each day.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes