



Living
My Life as a
Christian

OPENING PRAYER

III. My Life as I Proclaim my Faith—*what I believe about how my faith influences others*

10. My life as I confess my faith

11. **My life as I profess my faith** (Christians reflect God's love through their words and actions)

12. My life as a member of God's church

Introduction: Sound a Clear Call

"If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?" (1 Corinthians 14:8).

From Bible times all the way down to more recent history, trumpets have been an important method of communication. Why would a trumpet need to sound a clear call?

How important is it for us to sound a clear call when it comes to our relationships with:

...non-Christians?

...the opposite sex?

...fellow members of our congregation/church body?

The Scriptures Say

1. Read the following Bible passages and explain what our natural state leads us to profess by our words and actions.

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Romans 7:5 When we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death.

Matthew 15:19 Out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

2. Use the following Bible passages to explain what happens to our natural state, as expressed by our words and actions, after we become a Christian.



Romans 6:22-23 Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 2:9-11 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

Galatians 5:22,23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

3. Why does a Christian want to profess Christ clearly in his or her words and actions?

Psalms 105:1-5 Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.

Deuteronomy 4:6-7 Observe [these decrees] carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

John 17:26 "I have made you [the only true God] known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

4. As you read the passages below, list three reasons why clearly professing the truth through our words and actions is important for every Christian.

1 John 1:5,6 God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

Matthew 7:15 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Titus 3:10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.

The Principles

Because the Bible clearly teaches the following truths . . .

1. I believe professing agreement _____ is my natural state; agreement

_____ is an unnatural state.

2. I believe expressing fellowship with God is _____.
3. I believe I profess my faith for the sake of _____, _____, and _____.

Focus: Even a hint?

Ephesians 5:3 Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

God is so concerned that his children properly represent him with their words and lives that he warns us not to have even a "hint" of sexual immorality in our lives. Why is this so important? What applications do we see for this warning today?

What Does This Mean?

1. The world looks at the limits and restrictions Christians put on themselves as unnecessary and antiquated. How does a Christian look at such things?
2. What new meaning and encouragement does this lesson give to a parent who has heard the following justification one too many times: "But everyone's doing it"?
3. Would we be more effective at reaching others if we become more like the world? Why or why not?

What This Means for Me

- Take a few moments to write a short statement expressing the way these truths shape what you believe and how you live.

For Next Time

- Read: *Church Fellowship: Working Together for the Truth*, John F. Brug, especially pp. 23-31. Be prepared to participate in class discussion.

QUESTIONS TO DIRECT YOUR READING

1. What quote(s) from *Church Fellowship* was especially valuable for you?
2. What was the most important thing you learned about HOW WE BUILD A STRONG AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS?