

# What it Means to be a Christian

Lk.8:15, good ground

Five-finger memory system

Five acts of worship: Ac.2:42; Ep.5:19

Common misconception: become Christian, in congregation, coast into heaven...

- Ac.11:26, disciples learned
- Ac.26:27-29, to be like Paul – inactive?
- Our spiritual duties: 24/7

# I. Family Relations

# Families are unsettled in U.S.

- Women's liberation
- Casual divorce
- Common fornication
- Rebellious children
- Gender insanity
  - Why?
  - Everyone does what he wants . . . and wants to fit in

Lk.2:41-51, Creator of universe...  
submits to imperfect parents

- Christians follow God's standard
  - Mt.19:3-9; 1 Pt.3:1-7
- Husband / wife argue...repent... Why?  
Because of <sup>1</sup>God, <sup>2</sup>love
  - Ep.5:22-29, built-in marriage counsel

Lk.2:41-51, Creator of universe...  
submits to imperfect parents

- Children, Ep.6:4 –
  - Fathers bear ultimate responsibility
  - Sometimes, only one can do it –  
(Timothy's mother)

# Children, Ep.6:4 – requires . . .

1. Love. Supply needs
2. Discipline. Ep.6:4, guidance, training...
  - \*2 Tim.1:5; 3:15
  - \*Hb.12:11 . . . painful [grief, distress, suffering, miserable]
  - Discipline – correction, providing guidance for responsible living, training. (Present grief, future joy.)

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- “When our author describes the harvest it produces as 'peaceful' the metaphor is still that of the athletic contest. For the adjective bespeaks the rest and relaxation enjoyed by the victorious contestant once the conflict is over” – Hughes



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- “Though the sterner aspect of training is never pleasurable for the time, it results in righteousness — in moral hardihood and serene self-mastery — to all who have been trained in these gymnasia” – Farrar

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\*2 Tim.1:5; 3:15 ... Hb.12:11
3. Teaching. Instruction of the Lord (ESV; NASB).  
Counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct, admonition...
4. God put you in charge of your children

# Signs of a spoiled child

- You tell them 'no'; they ignore you or throw a tantrum...
- Not satisfied with what they have
- They are focal point of the family
- Demand things right now! Wear down parents
- Cannot lose well. Argue to get their way.
- Will not complete task unless parents beg... or bribe

- “By the time children are five, their parents will have done at least half of all that can ever be done to determine the children’s future faith’ – Randolph Miller
- “To refuse to discipline a child is to refuse a clear demand of God, for a child who doesn’t learn to obey both parents will find it much harder to learn to obey God” – Ken Taylor
- One permissive parent: they don’t learn true discipline; they learn to look for loopholes.
- 2 Sm.13

I. Family Relations

II. Social Relations

# Luke 2:...40, 52

- He kept increasing... [Of pioneers...trees]
- Wisdom, stature, favor with God and man
- He is our example –
  - Pr.3:3-4
  - Ac.2:47
    - Joseph, Gn.39:...4-6
    - Samuel, 1 Sm.2:26
    - Paul, Ac.24:16
    - Us, Ro.14:18

# Instrument to aid us in social relations – word of God

Ro.11:33

Mk.12:37 . . . heard Him gladly

- Mk.6:20, Herod heard John gladly
- Jesus did not merely quote rabbis

# Our tool to aid us in social relations – word of God

Mt.7:28-29

- Mt.5:1-2, addressed chiefly to disciples
- Others were present – featured here
- Astonishment of great number
- Mt.7:28, filled with amazement to the point of being overwhelmed, astounded
- Mt.13:54, this wisdom ... mighty works
  - Rabbis carefully quoted 'authorities'



# Our tool to aid us in social relations – word of God

Humility helps. 2 Co.12:1

- Paul's visit to Paradise left him unable to relate his experience in human language
- What could Jesus have told??

Ph.2:5-9, Lord . . .

Equal to God	Heaven	Earth
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Bond- servant	Male- factor	Death	Cross
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# Final purpose

1 Co.10

**32** Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, **33** just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.