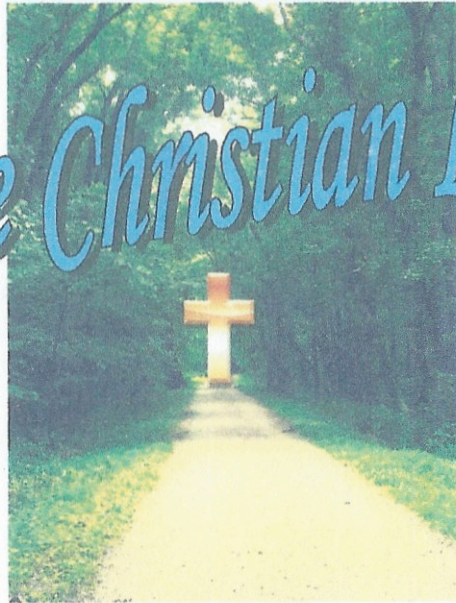


# The Christian Life



## BIBLE DOCTRINE STUDIES #9



By J. PAUL RENO

# **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

## **Bible Doctrine Studies #9**

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# **BIBLE DOCTRINE**

## **The Christian Life**

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## **BIBLE DOCTRINE**

### **What is The Christian Life?**

The Christian Life is so straight and narrow that only a saved person can possibly live it!

#### **I. A Life of Righteousness**

This includes doing right by God's standard, for our Saviour was altogether righteous in person and action.

##### **Isa. 64:6**

1. Our personal righteousness (state and act) is unacceptable to God.
2. The best we can do by ourselves when put together is nothing more than "as filthy rags".
3. We need a righteous life produced by God (vss. 7 and 8).

##### **Rom. 3:9-12**

1. Our best is unprofitable to God.
2. Because of sin we cannot do good by God's standard.

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#### **Titus 3:5, 6**

1. Our personal righteousness could never save us.
2. We need someone else to save us.
3. We need a washing and renewing to deliver us from our own righteousness.

#### **Titus 2:11-15**

1. God's grace brings salvation (**11**).
2. This grace appears to **ALL** men (**11**).
3. This grace teaches the saved to live righteously in this present world (**12**).
4. Living righteously is possible because of
  - God's salvation (**11**)
  - Our denying ungodliness and worldly lusts (**12**)
  - Our looking for Christ's return (**13**)
  - Christ's purchase of us (**14**)
  - Christ's redeeming us from all iniquity (**14**)

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- Christ's purifying of us (14).

#### **Rev. 19:7-9**

1. The saved make up the bride/wife of Christ.
2. The saved will make themselves ready for that great marriage day (7).
3. We will be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white – the righteousness of the saints. (This is the opposite of Isa. 64:6 – one's personal righteousness – filthy rags). We now wear Christ's righteousness, part of the gifts that come with having received Jesus.

#### **Matt. 22:1-14**

1. The issue is not:
  - a) the invitation
  - b) accepting the invitation
  - c) responding and coming
2. The issue is the wedding garment.

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It was the custom to send a wedding garment with the invitation (a picture of Christ's righteousness). The offender responded to the invitation but rejected the garment (righteousness). His judgment is necessary as will be that of all who want Heaven without the needed righteousness of Christ.

### **I Cor. 1:26-31**

1. High status among men can be a hindrance to salvation. God is not impressed by who we seem to be.
2. God works among the humbled that He might receive the glory.
3. Christ is made our righteousness (**30**), and we are to live for, through, and reflecting Him.



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#### **Rom. 3:20-26**

1. We can have and exhibit “**the righteousness of God**” (21, 22, 25, 26).
2. This righteousness comes apart from the law (21).
3. It comes “**by faith**” (22, 26).

#### **James 2:21-26**

1. True faith will produce works.
2. It takes faith for us to have righteousness and to be righteous.
3. This righteousness is “**imputed**” or put on our account by faith, yet it shows up in the work we do.

#### **I Pet. 4:17, 18**

1. Only the righteous are saved and that scarcely.
2. The unrighteous have no Biblical hope of salvation.

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### **I John 2:29**

1. Jesus is righteous.
2. Righteousness is something to be done.
3. Doing (ongoing, continual) righteousness is evidence of being born again.

### **I John 3:7**

1. Doing righteousness is evidence of personal righteousness.
2. This is so for both the believer and the Saviour.

### **Rom. 10:1-10**

1. The Jewish people had a lack of knowledge of God's righteousness being offered for us through Jesus by faith.
2. Being full of zeal they labored to establish their own righteousness.

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3. Saving faith is of the heart and unto righteousness (Christ's). The believer will believe unto righteous living.

#### **Rom. 6:9-13**

1. There are three key words that unlock this chapter: know, reckon, and yield.
2. Once we "**know**" that our righteousness must come from and be produced by God, we should by faith reckon it to be so.
3. Yielding is to be to God with our personal members yielded as "***instruments of righteousness***".
4. We are to refuse to yield our members as "***instruments of unrighteousness unto sin***".

#### **Rom. 6:18, 19**

1. Through salvation we have been delivered from servitude or bondage to sin.

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2. As we once yielded to sin in action we should now yield to righteousness in action.

#### **Phil. 3:3-9**

1. Paul had more reason to hope in a self-produced righteousness (4-6).
2. Paul counted his righteousness as loss and dung.
3. He recognized the superiority and desirability of Christ's righteousness.

## **II. Saved and Separate from the World**

("World" means the standards, way of thought, way of life of this lost generation).

### **A. This World is controlled by Satan and Demons**

#### **John 12:30-32**

1. The world is under judgment and has been since Calvary.

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2. This world has a prince that rules over it – he was cast out back then.

#### **John 12:47, 48**

1. Jesus did not come to judge the world but to save it.
2. The judgment is accomplished by the Word – what Jesus said.

#### **John 14:30**

1. Satan is again given the title, "***Prince of this World***".
2. He has never had anything in Jesus. He operates totally apart from Christ, as does his world.

#### **John 16:7-11**

1. The work of the Holy Spirit involves exposing the judgment of Satan, the prince of this world.

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2. This is to encourage sinners to lose hope in the world and turn to Jesus.

#### **II Cor. 4:3, 4**

1. The arch enemy of Christ and men's souls is called "*the god of this world*". He not only rules (prince) but collects all worship not given to Jesus.
2. He blinds the minds of sinners to keep them from Christ.

#### **Eph. 6:12**

1. Four realms of demonic activity are named here:
  - a) Principalities – governments of this world.
  - b) Powers – powerful segments of society in this world (i.e. education, economy, press, military etc.)

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- c) Rulers of the darkness of this world – areas opposed to righteousness and Jesus (i.e. philosophies, pornography, evolution, fear, crimes, atheism etc.)
  - d) Spiritual wickedness in high places – religion apart from that which is Biblical and of Jesus.
2. Believers are to be in opposition to these forces operating in and over this world.

#### **I John 4:4**

1. Saved people are to live in victory.
2. The power of the Holy Spirit is contrasted with Satan's – *“he that is in the world”*.

#### **Rev. 12:9**

1. Satan is identified by several other titles.
2. He is said to deceive the whole world. This simply means that the *“world”* is deceived by Satan.

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#### **B. Lost are in and of this world.**

##### **Eph. 2:1, 2**

1. The lost live in a world that controls the boundaries of their walk. The course is established and they travel it.
2. Being dead in sin, they have no spiritual power or desire to escape the flow.

##### **I John 2:2, 15-17**

1. A love of the world is one of the evidences of being lost – without the love of God.
2. The world and God are contrasted:
  - a) Lust of the flesh – normal human desires for self (interior)
  - b) Lust of the eyes – desires based on appeal through sight (exterior)
  - c) Pride of life – building up of self etc.



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#### **II Tim. 4:10**

1. Demas is an example of loving the world.
2. He had to leave the company of the saved due to his love – they had nothing in common.

#### **James 4:4**

1. Friendship with the world is spiritual adultery.
2. Friendship with the world makes one the enemy of God.
3. Those in the world are God's enemies, not His children.

#### **II Pet. 2:19-22**

1. These were in the world, temporarily escaped its pollutions, and then were once again entangled in it.
2. Like the sow, they were washed but went back to that which was their nature.

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3. They really never ceased to be "*world*", but only were temporarily cleansed.

#### **I John 5:18, 19**

1. Notice the contrast between "*we*" and "*world*" (vs. 19).
2. The world covers all who are not saved.

#### **C. We are to be SAVED FROM the world.**

#### **Gal. 1:3, 4**

1. One of the reasons Jesus gave Himself for our sins was to deliver us (rescue us) from this word (present and evil).
2. This is God's will in the matter of salvation.

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D. We are to be SEPARATE from the world.

### **Matt. 5:14**

1. The world is in darkness.
2. We are to be the opposite – light.
3. We are to offset the influence of the world.

### **Luke 16:8**

1. Worldly wisdom differs from that of the saved.
2. Worldly wisdom is superior to ours – only in this generation.
3. Our wisdom is wiser in the light of eternity.

### **John 15:18, 19**

1. We are not of the world, but rather, chosen out of the world.
2. The world hated Jesus and will hate us also.

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#### **John 16:33**

1. We will not find peace in the world but tribulation.
2. Being separate from the world we can find peace in Jesus.

#### **John 17:9-16 – High Priestly Prayer**

1. Jesus prayed that His followers be distinctly separate from the world.
2. We must live “*in the world*” but we are not “*of the world*”. (Example of being in the water, but not of the water).
3. This simply follows the example of Jesus and puts us in line for answers to His praying!

#### **Rom. 12: 1, 2**

1. We are not to let the world press us or fashion us into its mold. We should not think, act, desire etc. like the world.

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2. Instead of being in the world's form (or mold), we should be changed (or transformed) through mind renewal (ongoing).
3. Scripture and Biblical principles should govern our thinking, learning, motives, and goals.

#### **1 Cor. 4:9, 13**

1. The world does not have the ability to properly evaluate the believer. We are too different and separate from them and their value system.
2. The world in prideful ignorance looks down on the saint as a spectacle, filth, and off scouring.

#### **Titus 2:12**

1. God's saving grace also teaches the saint necessary lessons.

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2. We are to actively deny any and all worldly lusts (The world operates partially on a basis of lust.)
3. We must live right "*In this present world*". That will surely make us separated.

#### **Heb. 11:7**

1. Noah's obedience (faith) condemned the world.
2. Our obedience (faith-based) still condemns a world (sight-based) who must have proof before acting.

#### **Heb. 11:38**

1. The world was not worthy of the saints of the past.
2. The world has no reason to expect or deserve God's people today.

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#### **John 3:1**

1. The world never really knew Jesus.
2. The world can never really know the true saint. They can only know their own.

#### **John 3:13**

1. The world's hatred of believers should never surprise us.
2. Just being saved is sufficient explanation for the world's hatred.

#### **John 4:5, 6**

1. Those of the world speak of the world and are heard by the world.
2. God's children hear God's people.
3. As a rule, the world does not hear God's people. Only a few here and there will respond to the gospel.
4. A man or woman's audience identifies the speaker.

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5. This is the real test of truth and error!

**E. We are to have VICTORY over the world.**

#### **Gal. 6:14**

1. We should be dead to the world and the world dead to us.
2. Jesus won the victory at the cross.
3. Jesus' crucifixion is also our victory over the world.

#### **James 1:27**

1. We are capable of keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.
2. This is one of the marks of pure religion.
3. This is certainly a part of the Christian life.

#### **II Pet. 1:4**

1. We can escape the corruption of lusts that are in this world.



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2. This is accomplished through God's promises and the change in our nature.

#### **I John 5:4, 5**

1. One of the marks of being born again is that we overcome (th - on a regular basis) the world.
2. The faith by which we are saved continues to work and give us this victory continually. This is the normal pattern of the Christian life.
3. Our faith in the Jesus of the Bible brings deliverance and victory!

#### **. A Life of Good Works**

##### **A. The Need**

#### **Eph. 2:8-10**

1. Works don't save.

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2. Salvation by God's grace produces good works.
3. God works on us and changes us to show His workmanship.
4. He creates us in Jesus to perform good works.
5. God has ordained that all saved should walk in good works.
6. Lack of good works throws doubt on an individual's Christianity.

#### **Matt. 16:27**

1. Our salvation is in Jesus.
2. We shall be rewarded according to our works. Our works reveal our soul's condition.

#### **Rev. 20:12, 13**

1. The lost have all their works recorded by God.

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2. On judgment day they will face their record.

#### **Rev. 22:12**

1. Jesus is coming quickly with rewards for each.
2. The nature of our works determines our reward.

#### **B. Basic Principles**

##### **Matt. 5:16**

1. Our light should so shine that others "***may see your good works***".
2. We are not to hide our good works, and certainly not to be without them.
3. We won't need to brag on our works – just do them in our light.
4. Good works out of saved sinners brings God glory.

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#### **John 14:12**

1. We are commissioned and expected to do good works.
2. These works are similar to what Jesus did.
3. They are an evidence of genuine salvation
  - we continue His works here on earth.

#### **John 17:4**

1. Jesus had a particular amount (and kind) of work to do.
2. It was possible to do this work in the time allotted.
3. Jesus finished His work.
4. Do we know ours? Will we complete it before we go home?

#### **II Tim. 4:7**

1. Paul had a certain course to complete – a given amount of work to do.
2. He finished his before going home.
3. Are we on course or off?

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#### **I Cor. 3:13-15**

1. Our work(s) will be judged as to quality. The test will be by fire.
2. Some shall be rewarded, others will suffer loss/smoke/ashes.

#### **I Cor. 15:58**

1. We are to abound in good works – aim for the maximum, not minimum.
2. Doctrinally and practically we are to be stable, solid, and not moved. Inconsistency decreases our usefulness.
3. Work done in the Lord is never wasted or vain.

#### **II Cor. 6:1**

1. Good works are not performed in isolation.
2. We operate in a partnership
  - a) with others
  - b) with the Lord.

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#### **II Cor. 9:8**

1. We not only are to perform good works, but “*every*” good work – variety.
2. God’s grace provides a sufficiency to be able to accomplish these – abounding.

#### **Phil. 2:12, 13**

1. Our works are the result of God working in us.
2. God works both on our will and in empowering our ability to do.

#### **I Tim. 5:25**

1. All good works shall be shown.
2. This is not our responsibility – God has His own timing.
3. Some are shown soon but the others will be revealed later.
4. You cannot permanently hide good works.

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#### **II Tim. 2:15**

1. Bible study prepares us for works.
2. God's approval opens doors of opportunity.
3. We can so work that we have no reason to be ashamed before God.

#### **II Tim. 2:21**

1. Purging ourselves prepares us for "**every good work**":
  - vs. 4** – entangled with the affairs of this life
  - vs. 5** – dishonest striving
  - vs. 6** – laziness
  - vs. 13** – unbelief
  - vs. 14** – foolish striving
  - vs. 16** – profane and vain babblings
  - vs. 18** – error
  - vs. 22** – youthful lusts
  - vs. 23** – foolish and unlearned questions
2. We should be concerned with honor, sanctification, God's standards met, preparation for good works.

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#### **II Tim. 3:16, 17**

1. Scriptures furnish the man of God unto good works.
2. Scriptures are adequate to completely prepare for “all” good works.

#### **Titus 2:14**

1. Christ’s sacrifice of Himself was to prepare us for good works.
2. This involves redemption from all iniquity, making us unique, and producing zeal.

#### **Titus 3:8, 14**

1. Believers are to be constantly reminded of the need for good works.
2. We must take special care to be consistent and maintain such works.
3. Works should be in necessary areas – not in nonessentials.
4. Works are related to fruit.



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#### **James 2:14-26**

1. What value is there in a faith that produces no good works? A tree without fruit? A life unchanged by God?
2. Absence of works is evidence of a dead faith.
3. The evidence of faith is its fruit of good works. No fruit means there is no faith to be seen.
4. Demons have faith enough to tremble, but they are not saved, – still are demons. You can tell by their lack of good works.
5. **(22)** Works are the completion of genuine faith. They show up in the life of true believers.

#### **Rev. 14:13**

1. The saved labor and have works.
2. We never are separated from these – they follow us past death.

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**Rev. 2:2, 5, 9, 13, 19, 23, 26; 3:1, 8, 15**

1. Works were a constant issue in the last message of Jesus to the churches.
2. Churches should keep works in their focus.

**C. Types of Good Works (Acts called “good works” in the Bible)**

**John 6:28, 29**

1. Belief on Jesus is a good work.
2. Trusting Him is essential.

**Acts 9:36-39**

1. Clothing of needy widows.
2. Issue of pure religion (**James 1:27**).

**Acts 26:20**

1. Repentance produces fruit or good works.
2. Seven are named in **II Cor. 7:11**.

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#### **I Cor. 9:1**

1. Spiritual children are a good work.
2. Seeing sinners converted takes work.

#### **I Thess. 1:3**

1. Faith is a work – it requires resisting flesh and logic plus following the Scriptures (**II Thess. 1:11**)
2. Love takes labor – it isn't always easy.

#### **I Tim. 3:1**

1. The pastorate is a good work.
2. The pastorate takes much work – spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically.

#### **I Tim. 5:10**

1. Raising children.
2. Lodging strangers.
3. Faithful to communion.
4. Relieving the afflicted.

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### **I Tim. 6:17-19**

1. Distribute financially to others.
2. Open to the needs of others.

### **II Tim. 4:5**

1. Evangelism.
2. We should labor to reach souls.

### **Titus 2:7, 8**

1. Bible doctrine kept without corruption.
2. Men be grave and sincere.
3. Speech kept correct, accurate, clear, and on proper subjects.

### **Heb. 13:21**

1. All those areas that make up the will of God for us.
2. Living "*well-pleasing in His sight*".

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### **A Life of Truth**

#### **John 18:38**

1. Pilate pictures the lost man.
2. He is never sure what truth is.

#### **John 14:6**

1. Declares Himself to be truth.
2. In Him there is no error or lie.

#### **John 16:13**

1. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth.
2. He always operated from a basis of truth.

#### **I John 4:5, 6**

1. Our lives and speech are to be under the control of the Spirit of truth.
2. This separates us from the world.

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#### **I John 5:6**

1. The Spirit being truth is the basis for His being the witness.
2. This is why we can trust the inner witness of the Spirit.

#### **I John 2:27**

1. The Spirit's being truth is the basis for His teaching ministry.
2. The Spirit's teaching can always be trusted to be truth.

#### **John 17:17**

1. God's Word is truth.
2. Our lives should demonstrate the Scriptures. They should be lived, not simply read and known.

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### **II Tim. 2:15**

1. The Bible is called the Word of Truth.
2. It is to be studied, incorporated into our lives, and rightly divided.

### **James 1:18**

1. Our second birth was produced by the Word of Truth.
2. The Christian life will reveal its origins.

### **John 1:14**

1. Christ's life was full of truth.
2. Our lives should reflect Christ's.

### **John 1:17**

1. Jesus brought grace and truth.
2. The evidence of real grace is usually a life of truth.

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### **John 3:15-21**

1. Truth is not to be confined to the intellect, but put into action. All truth is to be lived.
2. Fully doing truth requires God's working in our lives. It shows the contrast of saved and lost.

### **John 8:32**

1. Truth frees us.
2. Our degree of freedom is based on our receptivity of truth.

### **John 8:40-46**

1. Truth telling is a mark of Jesus.
2. Lying is a mark of Satan.
3. Followers carry the mark of their leader.

### **Rom. 3:6-8**

1. Lying brings judgment.
2. The end never justifies the means.



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3. Those who think anything less than the truth will be used of God are under a curse of damnation.

#### **II Cor. 4:1, 2**

1. We should renounce all dishonesty, craftiness, and deceitfulness.
2. We should live to show the truth to all.

#### **II Cor. 11:10**

1. The truth of Christ is to be in us.
2. This truth should move us to action.

#### **Gal. 4:16**

1. We should tell the truth even if we lose friends and gain enemies.
2. Any that become enemies over the truth have an enormous problem – with God truth, logic, honesty, morality, and spirituality.

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#### **Eph. 4:15**

1. Truth is to be spoken on a regular basis.
2. Truth is to be spoken in love.
3. This is one of the products of a proper church.

#### **Eph. 4:25**

1. Lying is not for Christians.
2. Lying doesn't disappear on its own, but rather must be put away.
3. Truthfulness is related to our unity as Christians.

#### **Eph. 5:9**

1. The Holy Spirit indwells all believers.
2. The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives.
3. One aspect of this fruit is truth. No truth means no fruit of the Spirit.

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#### **Eph. 6:14**

1. We are to wear armour for protection in the spiritual warfare with Satan.
2. Different parts of our being/spiritual body are protected by different aspects of the Christian life.
3. The first named piece to put on is truth.
4. This protects very sensitive areas of our being.
5. No protection (no truth) and there will be great pain, defeat, and possible inability to produce other Christians. Little protection makes for suffering and limitations.

#### **II Thess. 2:10-12**

1. The lost will perish because "***they received not the love of the truth***". The truth is to be loved as well as believed.

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2. Those who have pleasure in unrighteousness (the opposite of truth) will believe a lie.

#### **I Tim. 2:4**

1. Truth is to be known – a realm of knowledge.
2. God desires that all men come to this knowledge.
3. One must be saved to come to this knowledge.

#### **I Tim. 4:2-3**

1. Truth is to be believed.
2. Truth will free us from doctrines of devils:
  - a) lying
  - b) hypocrisy
  - c) seared conscience
  - d) celibacy
  - e) vegetarianism

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3. Truth will keep us from departing from the faith.

#### **I Tim. 6:5**

1. Philosophy that prosperity is evidence of godliness is empty of the truth.
2. We are to remove or withdraw ourselves from those who believe such:
  - a) they have corrupt minds
  - b) their arguments are perverse
  - c) they are destitute of all the truth

#### **II Tim. 3:7**

1. For some the process of learning never leads to the product of knowledge of the truth.
2. This is a particular peril in the last days – learning but never really knowing.

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#### **II Tim. 4:4**

1. The choice to turn from the truth leads to believing fables.
2. They turn themselves at first, – then they are turned.
3. We must never turn from any truth God shows us.

#### **James 3:14-16**

1. Envy and strife evidence a life out of tune with the truth.
2. When envy and strife are defended, the source of logic is not heavenly but:
  - a) earthly
  - b) sensual
  - c) devilish
3. Envy and strife bring with them confusion, and lead to any and every evil work.
4. God's wisdom is contrasted:
  - a) pure

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- b) peaceable
  - c) gentle
  - d) easy to be entreated
  - e) full of mercy
  - f) full of good fruits
  - g) without partiality
  - h) without hypocrisy
5. A life of truth will reflect God's wisdom

#### **James 5:12**

1. A life of truth requires always telling the truth.
2. Those that must swear to tell the truth evidence the likelihood of telling falsehoods when not under oath.
3. God's people need no oath. We should always tell the truth.

## **BIBLE DOCTRINE**

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#### **I John 1:6, 8**

1. Truth is not only to be known but also done. All truth is practical.
2. Doing the truth involves walking in light and not darkness.
3. Doing the truth involves being in fellowship with God. He always walks in the light because He is light.
4. Truth is to reside within us.
5. Truth is to be so clear and strong that sin is exposed in us.
6. Truth will constantly show us our fallen condition and the law of sin within.
7. Any who would even say they have no sin are without this truth that would expose them to themselves.

#### **I John 2:4**

1. Truth residing within will bring us to obey Christ's commandments.



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2. Lack of exterior obedience is evidence of no truth within.
3. Denial of sin or lack of obedience to commandments is the very opposite of the truth of God.

#### **I John 2:21**

1. God's Word is addressed primarily to the saved; they know the truth.
2. Saved know that lies are unrelated to the truth.

### **V. Sanctity of the Home**

(This is dealt with at greater length and detail in "*Framework for Families*")

#### **A. Husband-Wife Relationship**

##### **Eph. 5:22**

1. This is God's will (**vs. 17**).

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2. Wives are to be in submission to their own husbands, – no one else's.
3. Submission is active, not passive or fatalistic. Wives can protest wrong, and are no longer responsible when obedience is still required.

#### **Eph. 5:23, 24**

1. Christ's headship of the Church is the example for the home.
2. The Church's submission teaches couples how to operate in the home.
3. Husbands are to give commands in wisdom even as Jesus does.
4. Submission pattern is protection in both O. T. and N. T.:

a) **Numbers 30:1-15**

b) **I Cor. 11:3**

**I Tim. 2:12-14**

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#### **Eph. 5:25**

1. Husbands are required to love their wives.
2. This love is both sacrificial and selfless.

#### **Eph. 5:31**

1. Married men are to leave home.
2. The marriage union makes us one in God's eyes.

#### **I Pet. 3:1**

1. The wife's submission is so thorough that it is called subjection.
2. Subjection is a powerful tool to bring a husband in line with the Word of God, and even bring a lost one to Jesus.

#### **I Pet. 3:2**

1. The life must be holy and pure.
2. The heart must fear God and sin.

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#### **I Pet. 1:3, 4**

1. The adorning to reach a husband is not outwardly for the senses, but from within.
2. Such an adornment is not only hard to come by but also costly to maintain. Trials and persecution will be used to test its reality.

#### **I Pet. 1:5, 6**

1. Sarah is God's example of submission!
2. Others have found that God protects submissive wives.
3. Obey your husband, trust God, and don't be afraid.

#### **I Pet. 1:7**

1. Husbands are to have the right knowledge to qualify for marriage.
2. They are to honor their wives.

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3. They must be right in this relationship lest their prayer-life be handicapped.

#### **I Tim. 3:2-7**

1. Pastors are to have one wife.
2. They are to rule well in their homes.
3. They are to have their children under control.

#### **I Tim. 3:8-12**

1. Deacons also are to have one wife.
2. They must rule their own homes and children.
3. Their wives must meet certain qualifications.

#### **I Tim. 5:8**

1. God expects a man to provide for his family.
2. Lack of provision is a denial of Christianity and a supplying Christ.

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#### **I Tim. 5:14, 15**

1. Younger women are to marry and bear children.
2. While the husband is the head of the home, the wife is to guide the house. This speaks of the balance of authority. It also speaks of staying home and not running around (**vs. 13**).

#### **Titus 2:1-8**

1. Four groups are mentioned with specific instructions for each:
  - a) aged men (**vs. 2**)
  - b) aged women (**vs. 3**)
  - c) young women (**vs. 4**)
  - d) young men (**vs. 6**).
2. The older are to teach and set a pattern for the younger.

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3. The young women are to stay in the home caring for and loving their husbands and children.
4. The young men are to be responsible, serious-minded, providing for their families.

#### **Gen. 3:16-19**

1. The curse from sin established certain family relationships.
2. The wife is to bear the children and be in submission to the husband.
3. The husband is to provide for the family by working with great effort and suffering.
4. Neither wives nor husbands are to avoid their responsibilities

#### **Prov. 31:10-31**

1. A virtuous woman will find sufficient freedom to operate within the home structure to care for their husband

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and children as well as help with family finances.

2. A right wife is an asset, but a shameful one will weaken a man (**12:4**).

#### **I Cor. 7:1, 2**

1. Touching (other than a brief handshake) by men and women (other than husband and wife) is not good nor wise.
2. Such is for those who are married or about to be so.
3. This serves as a barrier to petting which leads to fornication.

#### **I Cor. 7:10, 11**

1. Divorce and remarriage were forbidden by Jesus.
2. These verses are a summation of the Gospel teaching:

a) **Matt. 5:31, 32**



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b) **Matt. 19:3-9**

c) **Mark 10:1-12**

d) **Luke 16:18.**

#### **I Cor. 7:12-16**

1. Issue of unequal yokes dealt with.
2. Such were not to be knowingly entered into (**II Cor. 6:14**), but what do you do when you find yourself in one?
3. Believer is not to leave by choice.
4. Believer does not have to keep the unbeliever from leaving.
5. Believer does not have to receive the departed unbeliever back again.
6. Perhaps the believer can reach the unbeliever and see them saved.

#### **I Cor. 7:27-34**

1. There is a state of blessed singleness.
2. The unmarried are freer to serve the Lord.

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### **I Cor. 7:38-40**

1. Only death ends a marriage.
2. After the death of a spouse, it is permissible to marry again, tho it is not always advisable.

### **B. Proper Training of Children (Good results can be had.)**

### **II Tim. 1:5**

1. Timothy had a genuine faith.
2. This came from his home and influence of mother and grandmother.

### **II Tim. 3:15**

1. The Holy Scriptures can be taught and known from childhood.
2. The foundation for salvation should be laid.

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#### **Luke 2:41-47, 52**

1. Jesus could talk with the best Bible scholars of His day when He was only 12-years of age.
2. He grew in wisdom – therefore we are looking at His human side! Consider the implications of His home life and the home life of our children.
3. Other children were well trained before adulthood (**Dan. 1:3, 4, 8; Jer. 1:7; I Sam. 17:33; II Sam. 3:1-4; Gen. 37:2**).

#### **C. Means Must Be Used To Train**

#### **Deut. 6:4-12**

1. Daily instruction in the Bible is needed ... family devotions are a part of this.
2. Proper examples by the parents are needed.

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#### **Psm. 78:1-8**

1. Bible truths learned from other generations are to be passed on to younger generations.
2. This teaching is not only to teach but also to prepare students to become teachers of teachers. This will set up a perpetual line of teaching and learning.
3. This teaching is to include God's praises, strength, and wonderful work (**vs. 4**); His testimony and law (**vs. 5**).
4. It should produce improved saints even more holy than previous generations (**vss. 7 and 8**).

#### **Prov. 22:6**

1. Each child is different and needs a different path in specifics, though the same in general.

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2. Parents should know that course and how to train each child according to God's plan for that child.
3. God guarantees the product is tied to the process.

#### **Eph. 6:1-4**

1. Fathers bear the primary responsibility for spiritual instruction of the children.
2. Two areas are expected: nurture – the feeding, encouraging, instructing, helping; and admonition – warning, correcting, setting limits, showing dangers, stimulating to right choices and actions.

#### **Matt. 15:22-28**

1. Bring children with difficulties to Jesus for help. Know the problem, know where and to whom to take them, and plead their case.

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2. Either father or mother has the authority to bring son or daughter (**Mark 9:17-24**).
3. They can also be brought to Jesus for blessings (**Mark 10:13-16**).

#### **D. Discipline Must Be Biblical**

##### **Prov. 22:6**

1. Training is “**up**” while their nature pulls downward; therefore, there will be tension and struggle.
2. The child must learn the boundaries permitted in the way they are to go, and not be going beyond these boundaries.

##### **Prov. 13:24**

1. Love produces discipline.
2. Lack of spanking is evidence of hatred of the child.
3. The instrument to be used is the rod.

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#### **Prov. 19:18**

1. Spanking is normally needed from time to time.
2. Don't let their crying keep you from your responsibility. God promises inward change through this means (**20:30**).

#### **Prov. 22:15**

1. Foolishness is natural in children and is actually bound in the heart.
2. The rod of correction can drive it out and far from him.
3. The rod is for correction, not punishment. It is to be used to bring improved behavior.

#### **Prov. 23:13, 14**

1. Children are headed to hell and by nature will continue on this path.
2. The rod well applied can change the path and deliver the soul from hell.

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3. Many children of saved parents will go to hell because Biblical discipline was neglected or resisted.

#### **Prov. 29:15-17**

1. Lack of Biblical discipline will bring shame on the parents in later life when it is too late to correct the matter.
2. Proper discipline produces rest and delight for the parents in later life.

## **VI. Settling of Personal Differences**

### **A. Between Christians**

#### **I John 4:19-5:2**

1. Christians will love one another for this is our nature.
2. This love will be revealed by love for God and obedience to His commands.



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#### **I Cor. 13:4-7**

1. Christian love will manifest itself by the 15 virtues here named.
2. Lack of any of these virtues shows a defective love. This in itself will help us get to the root of many differences, – a lack of love.

#### **Rom. 12:9, 10, 14**

1. Love should be genuine and without hypocrisy or play-acting.
2. We should hate and shun evil.
3. We should cling to what is good.
4. We should have love gently toward each other.
5. We should give honor to others and see that they get the preferential position.
6. When we are mistreated we should bless our persecutors.

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#### **Rom. 12:17-21**

1. Evil in others is no excuse for us to respond with evil (**17**).
2. Deceit is not helpful in solving problems (**17**).
3. We should aim to live peaceably with all men. It is not always possible, but it is desirable.
4. God can punish, avenge, and even any scores that need to be dealt with.
5. We should learn to show kindness even to our enemies.
6. Good is stronger than evil and should be used to overcome evil.

#### **Matt. 5:22-24**

1. Causeless anger with a brother is wrong.
2. The degree of it may reveal such inner sin that will bring judgment upon us one day **or** be evidence of an unregenerate heart.

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3. If our brother has anything against us we should seek reconciliation. This is of higher importance and priority than giving or praying! (**Prov. 18:19**).

#### **Matt. 18:15-18**

1. If we have something against our brother we are to seek him out and try to resolve it.
2. Failure to resolve it should be followed by a second visit with a witness, and then the church discussion if need be.
3. Refusal to resolve is likely evidence of being lost.

#### **I Cor. 6:1-8**

1. Christians should not take Christians to court to recover finances.
2. It is better to lose the money than losing the brother, losing your testimony and

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- placing yourself in jeopardy before lost judges.
- 3. Saints are better qualified to judge matters than the lost judges – we are in training to judge greater matters.
- 4. We not only will judge the world but also angels.
- 5. Matters of this life should be able to be sorted out by the least esteemed in the church.
- 6. It is wrong to defraud your brother.
- 7. It is better to be defrauded by a Christian than grudge or go to court. **Vss. 9-10** show the condition of rebellious, defrauding, covetous people.

#### **B. With the Lost**

##### **Matt. 5:38-48**

- 1. **(40)** If you lose a lawsuit, pay off.

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2. (42) Don't be stingy. Help the needy. Loan to those with equity.
3. (44) A Christian attitude towards the lost is the opposite of the world's response.
4. (48) Our pattern is our Father.  
Vengeance is His area as is blessing, and He will balance all things.

### **VII. A Life of Prayer**

- ~ Jesus taught the disciples "***to pray***" and not "***to preach***".
- ~ Perhaps as much as 1/3 of Jesus' teaching had to do with prayer.
- ~ A believer's prayer life is the best indicator of his spiritual condition.
- ~ Prayer is one place where the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man meet! Often as we pray God exercises His sovereignty.

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### **Phil. 4:6**

1. Requests are to be made known to God.
2. All areas of life are open to prayer and should be prayed about.

### **I Thess. 5:17**

1. Prayer should be at all times.
2. We should be constantly in communion with our God.
3. We should never give up on praying.
4. We should persevere with our requests until rejected.

### **Luke 18:1**

1. The meaning of the parable is given before the parable – a most unusual occurrence.
2. Jesus emphasized the need for constant prayer.
3. The alternative to prayer is fainting and vice versa.

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#### **I John 1:3-7**

1. One of the marks of eternal life is fellowship with God.
2. No communion with God is evidence of being lost.

#### **Matt. 7:7**

1. The way of progress is governed by prayer.
2. We must ask to receive, ask to find, and knock to have things opened for us.

#### **Rom. 8:34, 26**

1. The Son of God intercedes.
2. We are to be conformed to His image; therefore we are to become intercessors.
3. The Holy Spirit assists us in this ministry (**vs. 26**) by helping us and by making intercession for us.

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#### **Eph. 6:18**

1. Prayer is basic to the spiritual warfare (**vss. 10-19**).
2. Constant prayer in all forms and areas with supplications are vital resources of power.

#### **Rom. 1:9**

1. We should pray for each other as Christians.
2. This is part of our serving Christ.
3. This type praying should never cease; it is always needed.

#### **I Cor. 1:4**

1. We should also thank God constantly for other Christians.
2. God's grace in them should stir us to praise.
3. Practical love and growing faith in our brethren ought to motivate our thanking God (**II Thess. 1:3**).



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### **Acts 12:5**

1. Peter was delivered because of prayer.
2. The church chose this weapon rather than resorting to other methods.

### **I Sam. 12:23**

1. Ceasing to pray can be sin against God!
2. We are under a divine obligation to pray for our brethren.

### **Acts 6:2-4**

1. We are to guard against anything which hinders our prayer life.
2. Praying is ranked with ministry of the Word – precedes it in order and priority.

### **Col. 4:2-4**

1. Prayer can open doors for the Gospel.
3. Prayer may determine the clarity and power of the message of the Gospel.

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#### **II Thess. 3:1-2**

1. Prayer may determine the reception of the Gospel.
2. Prayer can determine the safety of the preachers of the Gospel.

### **VIII. Evidencing the Fruit of the Spirit**

#### **Gal. 5:19-21**

1. Works of the flesh are in contrast with the fruit of the Spirit (**vs. 22**).
2. Works of the flesh are evidence of an unconverted soul.

#### **Gal. 5:22-23**

1. Fruit of the Spirit contrasts and shows the work of conversion – what the Holy Spirit produces.

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2. Singular fruit has nine sides, aspects, identities, etc.
3. Love, joy, peace are graces of inward character. They operate within but radiate outwardly.
4. Longsuffering, gentleness and goodness are resultant outward graces of character expressed toward others.
5. Faith, meekness and temperance are expressions of heart shown towards God and observed by others.
6. These are nine normal areas produced as fruit by the indwelling Holy Spirit. The flesh will strive against these (**vs. 17**) but we are to walk in the Spirit (**vss. 16, 25**). We must crucify the flesh (**vs. 24**), not pamper, provide for, or excuse it.

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#### **Gal. 2:20**

1. Our life is not our own to do with as we please.
2. We are to let Christ live through and in us.
3. He has purchased us and provided faith for living with HIM in control.

#### **John 15:1-17**

1. A mark of discipleship is fruit production (**vs. 8**).
2. Fruit comes in varying quantities:
  - a) fruit (**vs. 2**)
  - b) more fruit (**vs. 2**)
  - c) much fruit (**vss. 5, 8**).
3. The vital union of the vine with the branches is evidenced by the production of fruit.
4. We've been ordained:
  - a) to go
  - b) bring forth fruit
  - c) have fruit that lasts.

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5. Love and joy are mentioned in the context of fruit (**vss. 9-13, 17**).

#### **I Cor. 13:1-13**

1. The marks of charity (practical love) are clearly seen.
2. This is placing the fruit of the Spirit in the midst of the gifts of the Spirit (**chapters 12 and 14**). The gifts without the fruit are unprofitable (**vs. 1-3**).

#### **II John 1:6**

1. The fruit of the Spirit – love – has practical and observable outworkings.
2. Biblical or Spirit-produced love shows in the life and walk of the believer-obedience to the Scriptures (**I John 2:3, 4**).

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#### **I John 2:9, 10**

1. Biblical love brings a walk in the light.
2. Biblical love will give no occasion of stumbling to a brother.

#### **I John 2:15-17**

1. Spirit-produced love will not produce a love of the world.
2. Nor of the things in the world.

#### **I John 3:1**

1. This fruit of love is bestowed upon us, not worked up.
2. One result is the world cannot know/understand us.

#### **I John 3:11-18**

1. We should be ready to die for the brethren.
2. We should share with these brethren who have real needs.

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#### **I John 4:7-5:3**

1. Love is an evidence of knowing God (**4:7**).
2. Love is evidence of the indwelling fruit-producing Holy Spirit (**4:12, 13**).
3. Spirit-produced love will give us boldness in the Day of Judgment (**4:17**).
4. Love for the brethren is the evidence of love for God (**4:20, 21**).
5. Love keeps God's commandments from being grievous (**5:3**).

The fruit of the Spirit produces such change of character in believers as to enable them to live the Christian life and to show the life of Christ to a sin-cursed generation



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