

Christian Living Made Simple

Galatians 2:20

EFCA Statement of Faith (Article 8)

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

The essence of Christian living is to manifest (1) the character of Christ in our conduct and (2) the purposes of God in our priorities.

I. What can I know about God that will cause me to love and trust Him?

- A. God's _____

- B. God's _____

- C. God's _____ and _____

- D. God's _____

II. Which character qualities of Christ are most critical to my conduct?

- A. His _____

- B. His _____

III. What purposes of God should determine my life priorities?

- A. The manifestation of God's _____

- B. The demonstration of His _____

- C. The proclamation of the _____

Conclusion / Application

At the start of each day pray, “Lord, help me live out these priorities:

- To manifest Your glory
- To demonstrate Your love
- To proclaim the gospel”

Then pray, “For the next hour help me to:

- Love those I encounter as You love them
- Keep my thoughts and actions pure as You Yourself are holy.”

Day by Day in the Word

Monday-Tuesday

Read Galatians 2:20. *The essence of Christian living is to manifest (1) the character of Christ in our conduct and (2) the purposes of God in our priorities.* Behind this statement is the assumption that we will want to have conduct which reflects Christ’s character and priorities which reflect God’s purposes. Our motivation is love for God and complete trust in Him. Sunday we considered four attributes of God which cause us to love and trust God. Psalm 139 captures some of these attributes in a context of God’s incredible care for us. **Read Psalm 139**, and as you do, picture yourself being the one actually saying these things, and think about what this would mean in your life. When you get to the end, let v.23-24 actually be your prayer. Don’t forget to use the application (above) as you start each day this week.

Wednesday-Thursday

Romans 8:29 tells us that God has predestined us to become conformed to the image of His Son. That means that we are in the process of becoming like Jesus in our character, conduct, thoughts, words, values, priorities, etc. We’ve simplified it by focusing on only two of Christ’s character qualities this week, His **love** and His **holiness**. Read I John 4:7-21. Who presents the greatest challenge for you to show Christ’s love to him/her? Do something loving for that person today. How are you doing in the area of personal purity, reflecting Christ’s holiness?

Friday-Saturday

Sunday we identified three purposes of God which should determine our own life priorities: the manifestation of His glory, the demonstration of His love, and the proclamation of the gospel. Can you see how humbly sharing Christ with another person actually furthers all three of these purposes? **Read I Peter 3:13-17.** Is there anyone with whom you can share Christ this week “in gentleness and reverence”? Pray for that person, and ask God to open their eyes to the gospel. Don’t force the issue. Allow the Holy Spirit to do His job.