



## Walking in Holiness

### Lesson 5: Crucifying Your Life and Never Causing Others to Stumble

#### 1. A Christian crucifies the flesh.

Matthew 16:24-26

What does it mean to take up your cross?

The cross speaks of sacrifice. \_\_\_\_\_

There are two things that a Christian crucifies. First, we are going to see that a Christian crucifies the flesh.

You have nailed your sinful desires to the cross.

#### Galatians 5:16-21 – New Living Translation

**Galatians 5:16**      *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.*

**Galatians 5:17**      *The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.*

**Galatians 5:18**      *But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.*

**Galatians 5:19**      *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,*

**Galatians 5:20**      *idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,*

**Galatians 5:21**      *envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

This was written to Christians!

A Christian is to keep a close watch on how he lives.

It tells us plainly that people who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

### **Galatians 5:22-24 – New Living Translation**

**Galatians 5:22**     *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

**Galatians 5:23**     *gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

**Galatians 5:24**     *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.*

If there is no evidence of verse 24 in your life – it is proof that you are not a Christian.

### **1 John 3:7-8**

This is not talking about someone who sins once and misses it. This is someone who keeps on sinning.

As a Christian, you have nailed your sinful desires to the cross.

Galatians chapter five lists specific sins.

Let's look at when Jesus returns. This is written to Christians.

### **2 Peter 3:10-14**

Nobody knows the day or the hour. We need to live pure and holy, so that we do not miss the Day of the Lord.

Any doctrine that gives you a pass on sin is not from God.

Anything that makes you comfortable with immoral things will rob you of your place in eternity.

Some people have the mentality that if they live holy, they will miss out on life. That is not true! Godliness is beneficial for you.

### **Romans 14:17**

What flows out of righteousness? – \_\_\_\_\_

Godliness is for your benefit. It brings blessing.

Did you know His presence is directly connected to your choice to live holy?

### **Luke 1:74, 75 – Amplified Bible**

**Luke 1:74** *To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our foes, might serve Him fearlessly*

**Luke 1:75** *In holiness (divine consecration) and righteousness [in accordance with the everlasting principles of right] within His presence all the days of our lives.*

### **Colossians 1:10**

Notice that good works are directly connected with increasing in the knowledge of God.

But the knowledge of God doesn't mean what you think.

Definition of KNOWLEDGE OF GOD:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact knowledge
- Firsthand, experiential knowing

### **Colossians 1:10 – The Passion Bible**

*We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll become fruit-bearing branches, yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness!*

## **2. A Christian crucifies their life.**

### **Matthew 16:24**

What does a crucified life mean? – Any time there is a conflict between your life and what God has called you to do as a Christian, you bow to the orders of your Master.

We are full time Christians and part time everything else.

When you put God first and live holy, you move from clay to wood, to silver, to gold.

The harder you pursue God, the more His blessings will follow you.

An example of this can be found in the early 1900s.

- Athletes who qualified for the Olympics and had their event on Sunday – disqualified because they refused to compete.
- They refused to compete because it was on the Lord's Day
- This is the same generation that sent missionaries all over the world because it was “the cross before me, the world behind me”.

Christians today go to church for sixty minutes and have the exact same interests as the world.

Seek first the kingdom of God and all these other things will be added to you.

Sometimes the most difficult thing to give up is our friends.

If you do this, you will not end up at your destination.

### **Proverbs 13:20**

When you decide to walk away from sin so that you can rise with God, many people around you will be angry with your decision.

### **2 Chronicles 15:14, 15**

They sought after God with all their heart and soul. What happened because of that? God gave them rest from all their enemies.

When you put God first, he will give you rest from all your enemies too. Enemies like sickness, poverty, etc.

### **Deuteronomy 28:7**

### **2 Corinthians 7:1**

#### **2 Corinthians 7:1 – The Passion Translation**

*Beloved ones, with promises like these, and because of our deepest respect and worship of God, we must remove everything from our lives[a] that contaminates body and spirit, and continue to complete the development of holiness within us.*

### **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:7 – The Passion Translation**

*For God's call on our lives is not to a life of compromise and perversion but to a life surrounded in holiness.*

### **3. Causing others to stumble**

#### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Paul was referring directly to the previous chapter where he talks about how he deals with two kinds of people:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Believers with a sensitive conscience

In chapter ten, Paul is dealing with eating meat that is sacrificed to idols. Some Christians had no problem with it. Others thought it was wrong.

#### **1 Corinthians 10:23**

What is he saying? – You can make an argument that it is okay to eat meat sacrificed to idols. However, it may cause someone else to have a problem or stumble in their faith.

We are living in a time when Christians are taking a lot of liberties.

When somebody makes a claim to that they have a right to use their liberty that might potentially cause someone to be hurt – they (maybe unintentionally) have taken the Gospel and centered it around themselves.

The number one issue in our day is the consumption of alcohol.

There are Christians who make the argument that casual drinking is acceptable, and they have the liberty to do that.

We are going to show in scripture that this is not the case. However, for the sake of our study, let's say that we agree with them, and Christians have the liberty to drink.

Ask yourself this question – Why would you take the liberty to do this knowing that:

- You are surrounded with people in your life who love Jesus but struggled with drinking and your consumption of alcohol might cause them to stumble.

#### **1 Corinthians 10:23, 24**

What does this mean? – \_\_\_\_\_

Ask yourself, “How is what I am doing right now affecting those around me?”

### **1 Corinthians 10:25-27**

You have the liberty to eat meat sacrificed to idols. If someone puts food down in front of you and does not say anything about it – just eat it. Your conscience is clear.

### **1 Corinthians 10:28**

There are people watching you. Those people may not have a great understanding of your Christian liberties.

### **1 Corinthians 10:29-31**

If there is anything in this “so called” liberty that would take away from the glory of God – You need to lay that liberty down.

### **1 Corinthians 10:32**

This is serious! Paul is not just talking about those with understanding. He is talking about those with no understanding. He is talking about those who have a complete difference of understanding.

He encompasses all people.

### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Paul believed this is how Jesus handled Himself and it is how we should handle ourselves.

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### **1 Corinthians 10:33**

What is Paul saying? – He is not saying he is trying to please everyone. He is saying that in all those situations – he is putting others before himself. He is saying, “I put the Jews before me. I put the Greeks before me. I put the church – my brothers and sisters before me.”

In all the situations he described, he was putting all men before himself.

Before you do or say anything, ask yourself, “How is what I am doing going to affect people as they follow Christ?”

### **1 Corinthians 10:33**

What is good for them? Does it benefit them?

It is not about – what am I “allowed” to do as a Christian. It is about – how does this affect my brother and those who are watching me outside of the church.

### **1 Corinthians 6:12**

#### **1 Corinthians 6:12 – Contemporary English Version**

*Some of you say, "We can do anything we want to." But I tell you that not everything is good for us. So I refuse to let anything have power over me.*

#### **1 Corinthians 6:12 – Amplified Bible**

*Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful (good for me to do, expedient and profitable when considered with other things). Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power.*

Here is the question people ask – “Is it a sin to drink alcohol?” – The fact that you are asking that question reveals that your life is going in the wrong direction.

You are asking – how far can I live at the edge without falling over. If you have this mentality, you will have an accident.

Nobody ever fell into the Grand Canyon without first flirting with the edge. Nobody ever fell into the Grand Canyon by standing in Kansas.

Instead of living this way, learn the principle of this verse.

Do not ask – “What can I get away with and still be a Christian?” Instead ask – “What gets me closer to God?”

Ask – “Is the way I am living causing others to grow closer to Jesus?”