

Becoming More Like Christ

“People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer and obedience to Scripture, faith and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith; we cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.” D.A. Carson

Observation 1

The command to holy living is only for those who have a relationship with God through faith in Christ

Christian Behavior ...

Follows becoming a Christian. Not the other way around.

Observation 2

It matters what you fill up your life with

We are finite creatures

Matthew 6:24 ESV

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

It matters ...

What you do with your time

It matters ...

What you put in your mind

What do you put in your mind?

Romans 8:6 ESV

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

It matters ...

What you love with your heart

Where do you find your joy?

Psalms 51:12 ESV

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Observation 3

Be aggressive in attacking sinful behavior

This is for all of us

1 John 1:8 ESV

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

It's really just using common sense

Proverbs 21:16 NLT

The person who strays from common sense will end up in the company of the dead.

The Little Things Matter

Proverbs 6:27 NLT

Can a man scoop a flame into his lap and not have his clothes catch on fire?

Words Matter

Matthew 12:36 ESV

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

The Balance

"Theology with passion for Jesus can conquer biology." John Piper

Closing Thought 1: Don't Lose Heart

2 Corinthians 4:16 ESV

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

Closing Thought 2: We Need Each Other

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 ESV

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

May we be ...

A Community that Worships

A Community that Serves

A Community that Learns