

In Lesson Eleven, “The Work of Christ Through the Believers Life”, we said:

The Believer Is Made Free from the Rule of Sin

- We must know that our old self was crucified with Christ (Ro 6:6).
- We must consider ourselves to be dead to sin (Ro 6:11).
- We must present the members of our body as instruments of righteousness to God (Ro 6:13).

The Believer Is Made the Servant of Righteousness (Matthew 6.33)

- God’s Righteousness In Law
- God’s Righteousness.... Imputed, Obeyed
- God’s Righteousness.... Displayed

Righteousness is an attribute that belongs to God, the Lawgiver, and is manifested in His laws. No man can be justified by his own works apart from God’s ordinance. Therefore, righteousness is a wonderful gift from God to humanity through His love: it is the God-given quality imputed to man upon believing in the Son of God.

The Believer is given a New Service

- A new Master – Christ, by redemption – price paid
- A new freedom- By truth – John 8:32
- A voluntary service
- A joyful service
- A fulfilling service
- A fruitful service

1.The Believer’s New Master

Illustration of Imitators of God - Welsh Revival of 1904 -- In an eyewitness report of the great Welsh revival of 1904, G. Campbell Morgan wrote, “The horses are terribly puzzled. A manager said to me. ‘The haulers are some of the very lowest. They have driven their horses by obscenity and kicks. Now they can hardly persuade the horses to start working, because there is no obscenity and no kicks.’”

[Ephesians 5:1](#) Be ye therefore **followers** of God, as dear children

- **Disciple:** a personal follower of Jesus during his life, especially one of the twelve Apostles.
- **Believer:** an adherent of a particular religion; someone with religious faith:
- **Companion:** one of a pair of things intended to complement or match each other:
- **Worshiper:** a person who shows reverence and adoration for a deity:
- **Defender:** a person who defends someone or something:
- **Champion:** a person who fights or argues for a cause or on behalf of someone else:

[Ephesians Sermon Illustrations 5 | Precept Austin](#)

Copy The Master Nov 10, 2003

[Ephesians 5:1](#) Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children

The Louvre in Paris is perhaps the most famous art museum in the world. It displays originals by such masters as Delacroix, Michelangelo, Rubens, da Vinci, Ingres, Vermeer, and many others.

Since 1793, the Louvre has encouraged aspiring artists to come and copy the masters. Some of our most famous modern artists have done that and have become better painters by copying the best the world has ever known.

An article in Smithsonian magazine talks about Amal Dagher, a 63-year-old man who has been duplicating art at the Louvre for 30 years. Dagher remains in awe of the masters and continues to learn from them. He said, "If you're too satisfied with yourself, you can't improve."

Paul instructed us to be "imitators of God" ([Ephesians 5:1](#)). In his first letter to the Thessalonians, he commended the believers because they were becoming like the Lord and setting an example for others ([1Thes1.6-10](#)).

Like the Louvre copyists, we'll never reach perfection before we get to heaven. Even so, we must resist the temptation to be satisfied with our present imitation of Jesus. We need to keep looking to Him, learning from Him, and asking for His help. Let's copy the Master. —David C. Egener

More like the Master I would live and grow,
More of His love to others I would show;
More self-denial, like His in Galilee,
More like the Master I long to ever be. —Gabriel

To become like Christ, we must learn from the Master

F B Meyer, The Very Image of his Father, Our Daily Homily

[Ephesians 5:1](#) Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children

Children mostly resemble their father. There is often an unmistakable family likeness, which compels the most casual observer to exclaim, "The very image of his father." Oh that in each of us there might be that which would make men think of God!

Put away your former manner of life ([Ephesians 4:22](#)). — The old man stands for the collection of habits, sayings, and doings which characterized our unregenerate days. The apostle says that they are to be put away suddenly, instantly. Evidently this is possible, or such a command would not be issued. Men speak of a gradual reformation and advise the piecemeal discontinuance of evil. God, on the contrary, bids us treat the evil past as a company of soldiers would bandits and outlaws. There is the greater reason for this, as the old man waxeth corrupt. Even Martha could not bear the opening of her brother's vault.

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind ([Ephesians 4:23](#)). — We are reminded of [Romans 12:2](#)). The mind needs to be brought into daily, hourly contact with God's thoughts, as contained in Scripture, that it may be renewed; else our constant association with the men and women of the world, their maxims and practices, will inevitably and sorrowfully deteriorate it. The only source of daily renewal is fellowship with God.

Put on the new man. — Of this the apostle affirms that it is according to God, and has been created. Our Lord created this beautiful dress when He rose from the dead. The day of resurrection was one of creation. All the habits and dispositions of a holy, godlike life have been prepared for us in Him, and await our appropriation; and as they are according to God, so soon as we put them on we shall become imitators of God as dear children. (Meyer, F. B. Our Daily Homily)

The Privilege of Being Christ Followers

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." — [Ephesians 5:1-2](#)

In 1839 [David Livingstone](#) heard Robert Moffat speak about missionary opportunities in Africa:

"I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been."

Livingstone was accepted as a missionary to the African interior. Livingstone discovered [Victoria Falls](#) and was awarded the London Royal Geographical Society's gold medal for crossing the African continent from west to east. But he paid dearly: A lion mauled his left arm and rendered it useless; his wife died while in Africa when he was forty-nine; he lost a son in the Battle of Gettysburg; his daughter died of fever in the jungle; his house was destroyed during the [Boer War](#); and he himself endured rheumatic fever and other illnesses.

Livingstone wrote in his journal:

"People talk of the sacrifice I have made... Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paying back a small part of the great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind and a bright hope of glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege."

2. The Believer's New Freedom

John 8.32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

[Sermon Notes for John 8:32-36 by Chuck Smith \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://blueletterbible.org)

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

"REAL FREEDOM."

Intro: Freedom is a basic dream of man. We hear much talk of freedom these days, there is a freedom that is not free, there is a true freedom we can all know.

I. YOU CAN BE FREE. "IF THE SON THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

A. This is the heart of the gospel.

1. "He breaks the power of canceled sin. He sets the prisoner free."
2. There is deliverance for you today.

B. Some bound by some besetting sin.

1. Though you have given your life to Jesus Christ, this urge overwhelms you, and you yield.

- a. Satan has used this to keep you defeated.
- b. It has robbed you of your joy in the Lord.
- c. You have struggled so hard to free yourself.
- d. You have about concluded, there is no hope.

2. Jesus Christ can and will set you free today.

C. Vs. 34, "Whosoever committeth sin is a servant of sin."

1. Some of you today are under the power of sin itself.
 - a. Satan is holding you captive.
 - b. Worse, he has blinded your eyes and deceived and called it freedom.
 1. "I am free to do as I please."

II. THERE IS A FALSE FREEDOM. "FREE INDEED (REALLY)."

A. We hear of sexual freedom league who advocates no restrictions.

1. That man or woman who have given themselves to sexual indulgences, are they really free?

- a. Bound by lust, an insatiable desire.
- b. They become the victim, and sex the master.
- c. By whatsoever a man is overcome by the same.

B. There is a false philosophy that would seek to place the blame for all our psychological ills upon our restrictive codes.

1. Because neurosis stems from guilt complex that would remove guilt by making nothing guilty.
2. Imagine a society with no restraints.

- C. Some have exercised a freedom to use drugs.
 - 1. They have thrown away restraint and talk of a free society.
 - 2. What started as trip, ends up a hell.
 - D. There is a true freedom.
 - 1. All things are lawful for me.
 - a. Are not expedient.
 - b. Are not edifying.
 - c. I will not be brought under power of any. (Drugs)
- III. HOW CAN I FIND TRUE FREEDOM?
- A. "If the Son therefore shall make you free."
 - 1. We must come to an end of our own struggles and devises.
 - 2. I cannot liberate myself.
 - 3. "If the Son..." My deliverance must come through Jesus Christ.
 - a. He has power to forgive my past.
 - b. He has power to keep me now. "Now unto Him who is able to keep you..."
 - 4. "But I have done that and still I am bound."
 - B. "And ye shall know the truth and the truth..."
 - 1. What is truth? Philosophy sought now disdain.
 - 2. Jesus said, "My word is truth."
 - 3. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth."
 - 4. You must read the word. It is truth and it will acquaint you and lead you to Him who is the embodiment of truth.
 - a. Thy word have I hid.
 - b. "Blessed is the man."

3. The Believer's New Service

The great Scottish Bible expositor Alexander MacLaren once wrote:

'We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the bullion vault of a bank and told to help himself, and comes out with one cent, whose fault is it that he is poor?

"Our treatment of our Lord's words discriminates us: He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, is he that loveth Me." (Meyer)

a. A voluntary service

[Study Guide for John 8 by David Guzik \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://blueletterbible.org)

There is nothing like the freedom we can have in Jesus. No money can buy it, no status can obtain it, no works can earn it, and nothing can match it. It is tragic that not every Christian experiences this freedom, which can never be found except by abiding in God's word and being Jesus' disciple.

b. A joyful service

c. A fulfilling service

d. A fruitful service

6 Ways to Serve God in Day-to-Day Life Crosswalk Editorial Sponsored by Moody Bible Institute Distance Learning

Many Christians consider going into full-time ministry at some point. It's almost a rite of passage for young believers. We spend years hearing how God is calling us to spread the Gospel, and honestly, can you imagine anything more exciting than sharing your faith in an exotic, far-flung country? The reality though, is that most of us will never go into missions work. We'll get normal jobs, start families, and maybe find a hobby in-between. How can we serve God in our daily routine? While it might not sound as particularly glamorous, an ordinary life still offers numerous opportunities to serve Christ. Here are just a few simple ways Christians can grow their faith in a day-to-day routine and discover the joy of serving God..

Invest in Other People

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself Galatians 5:14

It's remarkable how often we interact with people but never make the effort to know them. The cashier at your favorite store, the woman who cleans your office, the man you pass on the way to work every morning; each of these individuals is someone God created and gave His Son for. Christians looking to share Christ can begin by forming relationships with the people around them. Ask them about their day, compliment their outfit, or simply take a moment and listen to them. By investing in other people, we open their hearts to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Offer Help Where It's Needed

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me— Matthew 25:40

There's an old saying about how an act of kindness, no matter how small, can never be meaningless. Even minor displays of love can change lives for the better.

Do you know a couple who just had a baby? Take them a meal some night. Is someone moving into the house next door? Welcome them to the neighborhood and help carry their belongings.

Is someone you know sick? Perhaps offer to watch their children for a day so they can rest. Don't pass up an opportunity to help where it's needed. These moments may be brief, but they'll be remembered.

Seek Wisdom

" How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver- [Proverbs 16:16](#)

Cars need gas, knives need sharpening, and Christians need to stay educated. It's tempting to leave this in the hands of our [pastors](#), to simply ingest whatever they have to say each Sunday morning, but real wisdom has to be earned by the individual. Every Christian needs to spend time studying the Bible on his or her own, and supplement that knowledge with other readings from godly men and women. You can learn how to apply the truth of God's Word to everyday life. Remember, tests are easiest when you study for them!

Practice Hospitality

- *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.* [Hebrews 13:2](#)

When my grandparents were younger, they never let a Sunday go by without inviting someone new over for lunch. My grandmother would cook up an old-fashioned Sunday meal, complete with a big helping of my grandfather's favorite dish, rutabaga, and they would spend the day getting to know a member of their church.

There's a reason why Jesus frequently chose to share meals with his followers. Hospitality creates trust between strangers and builds bridges over the rough landscape of our lives. If Christians want to share God's love with their neighbors, they simply have to invite them over.

Show Forgiveness

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.- [Mark 11:25](#)

Forgiveness, true forgiveness, can be a difficult thing. As much as we like to believe we understand the concept of grace, some of us are still learning what it means to let go of our anger and pain. There are dozens of moments in life where even Christians would rather not show forgiveness: the guy who cut you off in traffic, the coworker who still hasn't sent you that important email, the friend who blows you off at the last minute. God teaches us that forgiveness means letting go of grudges, of the expectation for payback, and choosing love over retribution.

Make Space to Worship God

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.- [Galatians 5:24-25](#)

It's easy for Christians to get swept up into our daily schedules. We wake up, go to work, eat dinner, maybe watch some television, and prepare to do it all again tomorrow. In such an environment, we can often forget to worship Christ regularly, but that worship itself refreshes the soul. Before you step out the door each morning, sit down and take a moment to thank the Lord for a new day. If you work in a nice area, spend your lunch hour walking around and praising God for his workmanship. In the evening, make a space where you can be alone with God.

We are called to love God, so let us make time for Him. Start today in experiencing God's goodness and blessings as you seek to serve him daily. Sponsored by **Moody Bible Institute Distance Learning**. Learn how others are serving God in their communities. [Find out more](#) about Moody's online classes. Publication date: September 30, 2015