

*Romans 8.9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

**When we talk about “Christian” behavior, we are talking about the behavior of those who have accepted, by faith, Jesus Christ as their Savior and thus are indwelt with His Holy Spirit making it possible for them to serve God.**

[The Holy Spirit and the Sons of God by R. A. Torrey \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://blueletterbible.org)

Before considering this theme a few brief statements may be made concerning the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit and His relation to the people of God in the dispensations and times preceding the Day of Pentecost.

1. *The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, another Person, but not a different Being.*

*In general it may be said, He is not an "influence" or a sum and series of "influences," but a personal Being with names and affections, words and acts, interchanged with those of God.*

He is God as Creator. ([Genesis 1:2](#); [Psalm 104:30](#); [Job 26:13](#); [Luke 1:35](#)). He is one with God as Jehovah (Lord) in providential leading and care, and susceptible of grief on account of the unholiness of His chosen people. We cannot grieve an "influence," but only a person, and a person, too, who *loves us*. ([Psalm 78:40](#); [Ephesians 4:30](#)). He is one with God as Adonai (Lord), whose glory Isaiah beheld and John rehearses, who commissioned the prophet and sent forth the apostle. ([Isaiah 6:1-10](#); [John 12:37-41](#); [Acts 13:2](#); [Acts 20:15-18](#)). In these Scriptures one and the same act is that of Jehovah and of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit.

Besides the clear evidence of personality and equality in the baptismal words and in the benediction ([Matthew 28:19](#); [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)), the promise of Jesus affirms the presence and the abiding of the Spirit to be one with His own and with the Father's in this Word. "If a man love Me he will keep My words, and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him" ([John 16:23](#)). Above all, the name "another Comforter" (*Paraclete*) suggests a Person who would do for the disciples what Jesus the other Comforter ([Luke 2:25](#)) had been doing for them. He speaks, testifies, teaches, reminds, reproves, convicts, warns, commands, loves, consoles, beseeches, prays, intercedes, (often the word is "*paracletes*"); in brief, all these and other acts and dealings are not those of an impersonal medium or influence, but of a person, and One who in the nature of the case cannot be less than God in wisdom, love and power, and who is one with the Father and the Son; *another Person indeed, but not a different Being.*

[Study Guide for Romans 8 by David Guzik \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

**4. (Romans 8:9-11)** Christians are empowered to live in the Spirit.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**a. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you:**

Because the Holy Spirit is given to each believer when they are born again, every Christian has within themselves a principle higher and more powerful than the flesh.

i. “Many sincere people are yet spiritually under John the Baptist’s ministry of repentance. Their state is practically that of the struggle of Romans Seven, where neither Christ nor the Holy Spirit is mentioned, but only a quickened but undelivered soul in struggle under a sense of ‘duty,’ not a sense of full acceptance in Christ and sealing by the Holy Spirit.” (Newell)

**b. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His:** This means every believer has the Holy Spirit. It is a misnomer to divide Christians among the “Spirit-filled” and the “non-Spirit-filled.” If a person is not filled with the Holy Spirit, they are not a Christian at all.

i. However, many do miss out on living the Christian life in the constant fullness of the Spirit because they are not *constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit* as Paul commanded in [Ephesians 5:18](#). They have no experience of what Jesus spoke about when He described *rivers of living water* flowing from the believer ([John 7:37-39](#)).

ii. How does one know that they have the Spirit? Ask these questions:

- Has the Spirit led you to Jesus?
- Has the Spirit put in you the desire to honor Jesus?
- Is the Spirit leading you to be more like Jesus?
- Is the Spirit at work in your heart?

**c. And if the Spirit of Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin:** Because Jesus lives in us, the old man (**body**) is dead, but the Spirit lives and reigns, and will live out His salvation even through our mortal bodies through resurrection.

i. Not only are we *in Christ* ([Romans 8:1](#)), but He also **is in you**, and because God cannot abide a sinful home, the **body** (old man) had to die when Jesus came in

**Christians are “[God’s workmanship](#), created in Christ Jesus to do good works”** ([Ephesians 2:10](#)). And these last four words “to do good works” epitomize the behavior that glorifies God and makes Christ real to others. Granted, there are obstacles in our daily lives that can encumber our minds and hinder our spiritual progress, but only if we let them. Nonetheless, Christians are called to live lives that are “holy and pleasing to God” ([Romans 12:1](#)), and exemplary Christian behavior that allows us to fully commit ourselves to serving the Lord is made possible as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit who enables us to do the Father’s will ([Romans 8:9](#)). Indeed, “the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him” ([2 Chronicles 16:9](#)).

Christians are a chosen people, belonging to God so that we may declare His praises ([1 Peter 2:9](#)). To “declare His praises,” then, it is essential that we spend time in His Word not just so we can learn how to behave in Christian fashion, but also so we can battle against the schemes of Satan. As the apostle Paul pointed out, without this biblical knowledge we are not only subject to buying in to every new teaching that comes along, but we can also fall prey to “the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming” ([Ephesians 4:14](#)). However, knowledge alone is not enough; we are called to do more than to know and believe. Christians are to be “doers of the Word” ([James 1:22](#)). As the apostle James informs us, we are deceiving ourselves if we think we are spiritual by only hearing the Word. Hearing is not the same as doing. “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” ([James 2:17, 26](#)). Faith must be demonstrated by actions.

The “actions” that glorify our Father in heaven are those that bear much fruit ([John 15:8](#)). This is, in fact, how we show we are His disciples. Indeed, the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))—should be the hallmark of Christian behavior, especially love.

Christian behavior includes heeding Jesus’ call for us to be His witnesses to “the ends of the earth” ([Acts 1:8](#)). We are to share the gospel, which Paul defined as the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ ([1 Corinthians 15:1-4](#)). The validity of our witness is in how we live our lives. In the second half of Ephesians (chapters 4-6), Paul discusses Christian behavior which can best be summed up in these few words: “Be imitators of God...and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us” ([Ephesians 5:1-2](#)).

Paul urged the Romans to “offer your bodies as living sacrifices” ([Romans 12:2](#)). This, ultimately, is the essence of true Christian behavior – surrendering our hearts and yielding our bodies to Christ so He might continue God’s work through us. We are to be beacons of light in a dark world, using our spiritual gifts to advance His kingdom. It is living here on earth the way Jesus lived when He was here. It also means living to please one Person – God. We do this when we abide in His Word and then live it out as we are enabled by His Spirit, just as our Savior did until He took His last breath. As He was dying on the cross, Christ looked out at His executioners and asked His Father to forgive them ([Luke 23:34](#)). Jesus was doing more than fulfilling prophecy and making “intercession for the transgressors” ([Isaiah 53:12](#)), He was practicing what He preached ([Luke 6:27-28](#)).

Christlike people follow Jesus’ example.

- **Submit to Jesus Christ and let him transform us into a Christlike person. (2 Peter 1:3-9 KJV)**

3. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
5. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.
8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

➤ **Let God work his will in our lives. (James 4:7-10 KJV)**

7. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.
9. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.
10. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

[7 Christlike behaviors we need to follow Jesus's example - BibleTruths](#)

Seven things Jesus did for us that we need to do for others: love, live, die, intercede, forgive, restore, and encourage.

## 1. Jesus Loved Us First — Christlike people love others

1 John 4:7-14

7. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
8. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
12. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
13. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
14. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

## 2. Jesus Lived for Us — Christlike people live for others

Ephesians 2:1-10

1. And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5E ven when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7T hat in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them

## 3. Jesus Died for Us — Christlike people put others first

John 15:13-17

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

## 4. Jesus Intercedes for us — Christlike people intercede for others

Romans 5:6-11

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

**10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

**11** And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

## 5. Jesus Forgives us — Christlike people forgive others

Colossians 3:12-14

**12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

**13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

**14** And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

## 6. Jesus Christ restored us — Christlike people restore others

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

**16** Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

**17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**18** And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

**19** To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

## 7. Jesus Encourages us — Christlike people encourage others

Ephesians 4:25-32

**25** Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

**26** Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

**27** Neither give place to the devil.

**28** Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

**29** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

**30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

**31** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

**32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.