

Walk Worthy



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by **Emmanuel Basumatary**
Chief editor SHEAVES

The divine call to every believer is to walk worthy as the agent of the Lord on this earth. The Christian priority is not how nice am I rather how godly am I before the Lord and others. Keeping this idea, the Himachal Bible College and Seminary has chosen the academic theme as “walk worthy” of the Lord. The theme helped every student and faculty to look at their own lives and able to study God’s word and be obedient to the higher call of God. At the campus, students were divided at smaller groups and led by the different mentors throughout the years. The students were corrected and mentored properly, thereby, all students are well equipped in the word of the Lord to walk worthy before the Lord.

Based upon the yearly theme, the faculty and students were able to contribute various articles. One needs to renew his/her mind to walk worthy before the Lord. The mind is the throne of every thought and from it the issues of life springs. If the mind is guided by the word of the Lord and has cultivated self-control, one can walk worthy before the Lord. Those who are guided by the power of the Holy Spirit through the word of the Lord can live vital Christian life. Their life is not only worthy before the Lord, nevertheless, they will be able to shine in their societies- impact the youths, influence the pluralistic societies, transform outcast communities, and live harmony within the family and surrounding societies.

Every year the Himachal Bible College and Seminary produce magazine with the name of Sheaves both online and hard copy. At the re-opening of the campus the faculty decides the theme of the academic year. You may suggest next year academic theme, we will take serious in consideration of any valuable academic theme. As you read this year academic magazine, we hope you will understand how important it is to walk worthy before the Lord and on this earth. May the lord bless you as you flip every page and read them. Our prayer and wish is that you walk worthy as the agent of the Lord on this earth.

From the President's Desk

Welcome to Himachal Bible College and Seminary!

Commencement is an exciting time at HBCS. For students, it is the culmination of years of study. For faculty and staff, it is a milestone in the life of the college that allows us to mark it is the culmination of years of study. For faculty and staff, it is a milestone in the life of the college that allows us to mark another year completed in the service of Christ and the fulfillment of our mission.

For over 20 years, we have prepared spiritually adventurous, intellectually daring, and deeply faithful leaders for service to the Church, the academy, and diverse cultures and settings. Yet, over that long history, much has remained constant our Christian identity and purpose, our tradition and ethos, our spirit and commitment, and our determination to form and equip servant leaders who are ready, willing, and able to lead courageously in challenging times.

We are exceedingly proud of our faculty. At HBCS, you will study and work alongside some of the brightest and most cutting-edge teachers and researchers in theological education. Committed to the renewal of the Church and the advancement of knowledge, our faculty are dedicated to their students' intellectual and spiritual development, both in the classroom and beyond.

If you're discerning your life's call and purpose and are searching for a community that will challenge, inspire, and encourage you along that most important journey, welcome to HBCS! Here you will engage the life of the mind and the life of the spirit in ways that will stretch you and change you, but that will also give you the skills and aptitudes you need to fulfill your calling with faithfulness, courage, and integrity. At HBCS, we're ready to walk alongside you, to learn with you, and to share the responsibility and privilege of God's transforming work in the world.

Every year during the graduation, we release a magazine called "Sheaves." It is the voice of Himachal Bible College. This year our college theme is "Walk Worthy." Walking worthy of your calling means believing in what God has called you to do. Believing in your assignment from the Master. That is how we can fulfill His call in our lives.

I congratulate the editorial board, faculties, staff, and all the students who used various mediums of expression to present their ideas through this magazine. As long as our ideas are expressed and thoughts kindled, we can be sure of learning, as everything begins with an idea.



Dr. Sam Abraham
President
Himachal Bible College & Seminary

Renewing Mind to Walk in Godliness



Meribemo Y. Murry

Have you ever wondered how God has created this world? Let us think... When God said, "Let there be light," does light suddenly appear in such color it wishes to be? (You know light can be yellow or green). Alternatively, does animals took their own form when God said, 'Let there be living creatures" (Gen 1). We do not know, but we know for sure God thinks (Isa 55:8). So, He might have preplanned in His mind how the entire world should look like while creating this universe. Another question is how did sin entered in this world? When we read carefully Genesis 3, we see the serpent playing in the mind of the woman by creating doubt in her mind. She was tempted when the serpent said-you would have the 'Knowledge' of good and evil like God. Then she and Adam ate the forbidden fruit, and their eyes were open and they 'knew' that they were naked. Therefore, we see that sin entered in them when the 'Knowledge' of good and evil filled their mind.

"The mind, which is 'nous' in Greek, is the Centre where all sense, emotions and intelligence comes together for evaluation and decision. All human being has a mind, which can reason and think freely but everyone is accountable to God on what he or she thinks. God gave us mind to know Him and love Him (Matt 22:35-37), yet human mind can be defiled by evil thoughts (Titus 1:15). Therefore, it is essential to guard the mind by being honest with self, God and others" (Vital Elements, 211).

God is spirit and has a mind, which is pure and it is beyond human understanding. The Good news is those who are born again Christian can have the mind of Christ. Having the mind of Christ means understanding God's plan and purpose, living a humble life, having compassion for the people. All these things need to practice daily because we cannot have the mind of Christ once for all: it is a continuous process.

There are two kinds of mind, the carnal mind and spiritual mind (Rom 8:1). Paul clearly states in Romans 8:6-7 that carnally minded is death and enmity to God. Carnal mind is the work of flesh, such as adultery, fornication, uncleanness, idolatry, hatred, jealousy, strife, drunkenness etc. (Gal 5:19-21). These are first conceiving in the mind and slowly manifest in actions and behaviors. Experts says, around 60,000 to 80,000 thoughts occur in human mind a day and it is impossible to stops these thoughts from popping in our minds but at least we can stop it from nesting it. Then, the question is how to come out from carnal mind to spiritual mind? There is a saying, we are what we eat, and just like that, we become what we think. Therefore, we should not waste our time thinking on unworthy things rather we should think on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, whatever things that are praiseworthy and have virtue in it (Phil 4:8).

“Our mind is like a fertile field where wheat and weed grows. The sinful thoughts are like the weeds that dry up the nutrient of the soil. These thoughts mostly come up unaware like the ‘Sower’ where the enemy comes and sow tares in his field while he was sleeping (Matt 13:25). Many people enjoy these thoughts saying, “don’t worry these are harmless and innocent fantasies” (Keith Druny, 63). However, it slowly grows and become visible in their actions. Sometimes, people fantasy many things that are against God, thinking nobody will know it. “But God is omniscient, He is constantly observing and recording everyone’s thoughts and He will reward according to their thoughts (Jer.17:10). “We are not greater than our thoughts, nor holier than our thoughts,” on the Day of Judgment we will be known by our thoughts (Rom 2:15-16)” (Wesly L. Duewel, 133).

In order to walk worthy in the sight of God, a person needs to tune his/her mind towards Him because the mind is the receiver of spiritual insight. Thinking habit plays an important role in shaping a person spiritual life, so godly thinking habits need to be developed and practice. Just like physical body needs exercise to gain muscles, the mind needs godly thinking habit in order to grow spiritually. It is necessary to separate time to think godliness just like separating time for worship and prayer. A lazy mind can never grow in Christ, to grow in Christ a person needs to meditate on the scriptures and examine their thoughts on daily basis. This need mental strength, which can be develop by consistent practice through meditation, memorizing, deep reasoning and godly thinking etc.

Walking worthy means living according to the will of God and to know His will one should not conform to this world but set his/her mind on heavenly things which are good and acceptable to God (Rom 12:2). We should ask God to grant us spiritual understanding so we may not stumble in our walk and we should reflect Christ by doing good works and walk worthy in His call (Col 1:10).

For God gave us beautiful mind to use and to contribute in this world in different ways. Our mind is like a wave of ocean where infinite thoughts and ideas are swimming like fishes, all we have to do is cast the net and draw the good fish and provide to those who are hungry. So let us be watchful in our thoughts, speech and conduct. Let us ask God to help us control our mind because once we can control our mind, we can control the whole body.

“The best gift you could ever give to this world is your godly mind”.

The Root of Worthy Living



Ashish Kumar

Root is the part of a plant that grows under the ground and takes in water and food from the soil. In general terms, the word has been used in reference to the cause or origin of something or it can be said as the foundation. Thus, root is vital part of a plant or an important factor for a tree to grow. Identically, there is a root of worthy living that is, **“A Transformed Christian Life.”** It is a crucial factor in the life of a Christian to live a worthy life. As the Church, being followers of Christ, called by God to live a life that would be worthy and pleasing to Him. Many a times, the life of a believer is not worthy because their life is not at all transformed in Christ. They accept Christ; study His words and do all the things but their living style is same as they used to live earlier before accepting Christ. Ephesians 4:17-21 gives two concepts for living a transformed life that is worthy. The first concept is to **Abstain** and second is to **Embrace**. Abstain means “to avoid oneself from doing or enjoying something. On the other hand, embrace means “to eagerly accept new ideas, opinions or beliefs.

1. Abstain from former living (v17-19)

In the context of these verses, Paul discussed about the unity and maturity as twin goals of the Church, which God has brought into existence through the death of Christ. Then he continues to show that transformed life, which is the root towards worthy living, is also important for the believers those belong to Christ. **Paul reminds the believers not to live as the gentiles live (v17a).** To understand this, we need to know about the city of Ephesus: it was the largest and important city in the province of Asia. The city had the temple of goddess ‘Diana.’ The temple was the main Centre of all the wickedness; all the wicked practices were happening i.e., sexual immorality, homosexuality, prostitution and the gentiles indulged into all the pleasures related to the city and temple. Such an immoral lifestyle the gentiles were living. The fact was that the believers of Ephesians were mostly gentiles. Therefore, Paul urged the believers not to live as the gentile live. He wanted them not to fall off into their old life that was so much corrupted and immoral. The life that gentiles lived was “in the futility of their thinking; they were darkened in their understanding” and “they were separated from the life of God.” Further, Paul gives the reason for their such condition i.e., ignorance, hardening of their hearts, their commitment to sensuality or eroticism, and greed. The gentiles lived a worthless life, being in such states, which led them to do all impurity. Therefore, Paul asked the believers to abstain from their former living. Same applies to the Church today, the believers are not supposed to live as they were living, rather step forward towards the transformation and worthy life.

2. Embrace God's Character (V. 20-24)

After explaining the lifestyle of gentiles, Paul continues to exhort the believers about the renewal of life, which leads to the true transformation. These verses talk about the teaching, that the believers received when they accepted Christ. The believers were taught to put off their former lifestyle. The old self refers to the life of a person before accepting Christ. In v24 Paul says, "put on a new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Once the Old self is removed, the new self needs to put on. Paul uses the metaphor of changing clothes, i.e., removing an old cloth and wearing new cloth. Similarly, when an individual accepts Christ, the old is removed- the old corrupted, sinful, immoral self or nature. On other hand, wearing a new self that is created to be in the likeness of God (it means putting on the character of God). Paul mentioned two character of God- righteousness and holiness. The original word used for righteousness is "dikaio syne" which means the condition or quality of being honorable or honest; just and good in morality. And the Greek word for Holiness is "Hosiotes" that means to be free from contamination or pollution or be separated from all worldliness, sins or any defilement. Twice in the New Testament, this word is used and is joined with righteousness. Righteousness is about being good and upright but Holiness is something more than that. The old self of gentiles was fully corrupted, immoral, and sinful and it was not at all upright in Character and with God, it was away from God. Here comes the new self that is upright, free from all the pollution, free from all immorality and sins. Therefore, this new self is righteous and holy that will be worthy to God.

In conclusion, It is essential for the church to live a life worthy of the Lord and a transformed Christian life is the root to live a life worthy of the Lord. The church today exists in the similar context that of the believers of Ephesus. The church is surrounded by evil world that is fully corrupted and immoral. Every individual believer must be transformed and abstained from formal life and continue to embrace the new character that is made to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Finally, life of the believers will be worthy, acceptable and pleasing to Lord.

Walk Worthy



Dr. Sam Abraham
(Director)

Napoleon Bonaparte – a man of humble beginnings who went on to be a General, stated the following after making rounds about his different post and finding a soldier asleep at his post, “Soldier what is your name, the soldier replied, “My name is Napoleon, Bonaparte replied what did you say your name was, he responded the second time, Napoleon. Then Bonaparte stated, “Soldier my name is Napoleon, and you suggest that you either change your name or start living up to it.”

Living as a man of God in today’s post-Christian culture is like swimming upstream in a “downstream” world. It’s a struggle we can’t sustain on our own.

We need Jesus. We need wisdom. We need support. We need each other.

We are encouraged to walk worthy of our calling.

In Ephesians, Paul teaches the fundamentals of living the Christian life. He stresses that you are “to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1). The word “walk” has to do with behavior. It refers to daily conduct, to how Christians live day by day. The word “worthy” means “balancing the scales.” The believer who walks in a manner worthy of the calling with which he has been called is one whose daily living corresponds to his blessed position as a child of God and fellow heir with Jesus Christ. His practical living matches his spiritual position.

So, what are the characteristics of the worthy walk? Paul explained the worthy walk by listing five characteristics in verses 2-3. He said that Christians are to walk “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the important to understand that each one of these characteristics already belongs to every born-again Christian.

It’s part of the Christian DNA, and although it may not be seen in fullness, it’s there.

To understand the five characteristics of the worthy walk and live these qualities day by day, we must be willing to live the opposite of each. We must not live in self-centeredness in order to walk in humility. We must not live with harshness in order to walk with gentleness. We must not live pushing our own agendas in order to walk with patience. We must not live with idealistic expectations in order to walk in forbearing love. We must not live with indifference and passivity in order to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Therefore let us walk worthy of the calling we have received ... the church will be unified, and God will be glorified when we live in Christ-like conduct.

Philippians 1:27 says, “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ ...striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.” We are called on to live lives that shine a positive light on the gospel. We are called to live lives that reflect the changes God made in us when He saved us. We are called on to be different, to be holy, and to be like Jesus Christ. Paul’s challenge to the church is that we live our lives in light of all we have been given in Jesus Christ. His challenge is that we live these kinds of lives so that the world might see the evidence of God’s saving grace and of faith in His Word.

All God asks us to do is to live lives that are consistent with Who He is, what He has done for us, and what He has given to us in Jesus Christ. How does your life measure up to Paul’s challenge?

Walk Worthy of Divine Call



Dr. Harold Trujillo

Though no problem has been raised in the book of Ephesians, the reason for Apostle Paul's writing this epistle becomes clear when we consider his contacts with the Ephesians. Returning from his third missionary journey, Paul told the Ephesian elders at Miletus (A.D. 57) to beware of evil teachers from without and of professing believers within who would teach wrong things doctrinally speaking (Acts 20: 29–30).

From Revelation, one can see that the Ephesian church had succeeded in keeping out the false teachers (Revelation 2: 2) but had failed to maintain the authenticity of their first love for Christ (Revelation 2:4). This is substantiated in 1 Timothy 1: 5 when Paul wrote from Macedonia to Timothy at Ephesus (A.D. 62) that the goal of his instruction was "love which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." Thus, the theme of love needed to be stressed for the saints at Ephesus.

Ephesians 4: 1 Paul wrote: *"I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."* Here Paul encourages them to a unique way of living and urges them to walk that way. Walking "worthy of the calling to which you have been called" perhaps is equivalent to applying an understanding of Truth to the experience with which one is confronted. When an understanding of the Truth is applied to human problems, release from the beliefs of materialism has begun. How true it is that one can so rise above unfavorable conditions and circumstances through spiritual inspiration that one's sense of peace and harmony cannot be ruffled or disturbed by any passing event.

The experience of walking worthy is experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit directing and taking complete control of our soul, mind, spirit, and will. It is the life in the Spirit who makes us walk worthy.

Jesus displayed a marvelous submission to God the Father while growing. Joseph experienced the reality and truth of God's revelation, walked with integrity, and surrendered to the worthy One. Samuel's life was consecrated to God as a child.

Therefore, a Christian's conduct concerns our personal life outside the context of the church and our responsibility to other believers.

It is worthy to walk worthy because He who called us to serve Him is worthy.

VITAL CHRISTIAN LIVING



Rev. Amruta Bag
(Academic Dean)

It is a great joy to live in Christ. In real context of changing world, people have been living the life with recent trends when there is so much of shift in personal life, food habits, dress codes, world views. Those things are really reflecting our living style. A postmodern Christianity has not less in inclination towards ongoing tendencies. And in its adoptive process, there is a danger of being away from the pattern of the Bible. For accurate reflection of ancient truth from scripture when its derivation and interpretation for the ongoing context in right biblical way appears as tough job. It is obviously clear that real standard of daily life is from Jesus, the source of life.

If he guides man's walk become perfect. A purposeful life would never astray from the original plan of creator when one convinced about creator and his plan. It is, why and how do I live? Christian living is not all about ME but about HE (Jesus). It is to prioritize Christ than the individual self. But human dramatization in sinful world ruin positivity and welcome evilness with denying its negative effect. Prevalence of sins is ever increasing. Occurrences of unpleasant events are mostly with the influence of the world. They are like Suicide, rape, murder, corruption, decay, denying the reality. Enemy of life needs to be well recognized by the human beings and resist them for prosperity and success. Christian spiritual substantiation encircles with protection & aspiration by transmitting love and peace in one's life. But a good perspective, worldview and desire for better destiny are found in Christ. He is the savior of human soul. He does not want anyone to perish. This same impulse appeals believers to continue as responsible not only in life but others. True repentant living culminates better result towards Christ centeredness by pleasing creator amid of wavering scenario. The real relationship in him reflects goodness that is beneficial and it creates God's expected environment in the world.

The guidance of the Holy Spirit is perfect and it needs to be prioritized in a believer's life. Living word is the requirement to be stored and implemented as commandment. It helps to overcome hurdles and focuses the targets that are already aimed in visionary life style. This will ultimately lead towards the end of destiny as aspired life. Valuable living is determined with worth in Christ than outside. So live a life which is pleasant and acceptable to God. Let us know him, relate, and prepare for the divine visitation. Your life determines your destiny. Think positive and believe. It is good to lessen criticism and trust him more. Realize your life's prettiness and its fragrance in society. Let it exhibit in Christ. Never neglect to prepare for your future simply by assuming that it is okay. Assess your graphs! Have confidence in him than mere living. Your unique approaches to Jesus bring heavenly sense in the world. God bless you.

Christian Living

A Christian is the follower of Jesus. The history records those who were following Jesus were called as Christian. In Paul's language the *natural man* is the one who is not born again what we may call unbelievers, the *carnal man* who is born again yet life is influenced by the world, and the *spiritual man* is the who is led by the spirit of God in every situation of life. On other hand, the idea of living means- lifestyle of a Christian or a life that is exhibited the nature of Christ or the character of God in the society or community. Therefore, the idea of Christian living means- a true follower of Jesus exhibits the character of God by the power of the Spirit.

The foundation and building of Christian living rest on two things- God centered life and Christ centered life and these two fundamental roots will help every Christian to build on or live on...

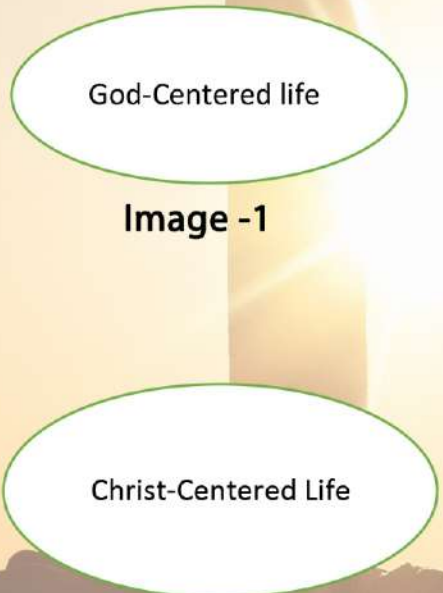
The result will be amazing. The person will be able to reflect the nature of God and be blessing to the community.

1. God-centered life

God has revealed himself in the holy Bible and He has commanded his people to follow him. God centered life is those who embraces God's will and follow on the footstep of God. To remain in the center of God's will, one needs to know perfectly the will of God. The will of God can be understood in two ways- general will and particular will. God's will is revealed in the Bible which we call as general will of God. The general will of God is for everyone. However, the particular will of God is not recorded in the Bible i.e., with whom am I going to marry, regarding my finances or wealth etc. Upon this particular will of God, we all struggle and ask several questions- what is the will of God for me in ministry, finance, family etc. Nevertheless, all our particular will of God must be carried out based upon the principles that is in the holy scripture.

2. Christ-centered life

Christ centered life is, living a life as prescribed by Jesus. Jesus taught how a person can enter into the kingdom of God and how kingdom citizens are to live as an agent of the kingdom on this Earth. Particularly, Jesus has taught his disciples and to us- to love God and to love our neighbors ourselves and upon these two commandments all the commandments are summarized. Living and practicing Jesus' word is the main key to stay in the center of Christ will.



God-Centered life

Image -1

Christ-Centered Life

Image -2

Moreover, living in God-centered and Christ-centered life is not based upon prescribed rules and laws rather based upon relationship. The sociological example fits in this understanding- a husband and wife obey each other based upon the relationship and create smooth atmosphere in home. We are in God's family. Jesus said to his disciples, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you (John 15:15). The declaration and the commandment of Jesus was based on friendship circle. It should not be taken as grievous rather light. Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). Living Christ-centered would be magnificent and extraordinary. Millions of people are influenced by the teaching of Jesus and those who followed and remain in his teaching became light to the nations. The result is Other-centered life. The Self-centered life dies and a person lives for others within the principle of God. A life becomes than- loving unlovable, caring sick, guiding the lost one, sharing ideas, meeting needs, faithful in handling money, sincerity in the work place, honouring elders, patience in hard time, kind hearted and many more. All of us want to be and need to be. And only those who stay in the centered of God's will and Christ can display such as these great character and the world will be better place.



Lect. Emmanuel Basumatary
(Chaplin)

A Christian Lifestyle

Everyone has their own way of life. There is a standard that society requires to maintain a moral lifestyle when living in the world. We each have our own way of living based on our professions, religions, customs, and traditions. Christians are not exempt from this, but we should live according to God's principles. The Bible is a good resource for God's principles for His people. In this article, we described two principles from the Sermon on the Mount, as narrated in Matthew's gospel, Chapters 5-7. Love for enemies, and a prayerful life are two crucial principles for God's people.

1. Love for enemies (Matt. 5:43-48)

The first principle we would like to point out is love for enemies. Humans, by nature, love those who love them back. "Nevertheless, I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven" Jesus said (5:44-45). This text contains the most striking lesson on love in the Bible. The kind of love that God demands of His disciples. Love is so powerful that it embraces even enemies. The scribes and Pharisees professed to be the custodians of God's law and the spiritual leaders of Israel, whereas they were actually arrogant, judgmental, spiteful, malicious, and vengeful persons. Jesus' instruction to love your enemies may appear incredibly foolish and stupid to them. Jesus contrasts the corrupt human standards with his own divine standard once more.

Humans have a tendency to center their love on how desirable their beloved is rather than on true love. It is easy to be attracted to an attractive person, to love your own children, to love those who favor you. This type of love can be found in any group of people. We cannot love our enemies without the help of God. It is natural to dislike one's adversaries. We can only love our enemies through God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. The followers of Christ should demonstrate unconditional love, which is love without conditions. The kind of love that is bestowed by the heavenly Father who is Love and who desires nothing less for His children. For example, The Good Samaritan demonstrated tremendous love by foregoing his own convenience, safety, and resources to meet the desperate need of another.

We have two reasons to love our enemies. One is simply because God said so, while the other is because God first loved us. When we were still God's enemies (Col. 1:21; Rom. 5:10), He showed us His love. God's love brought us salvation through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:8). Loving enemies implies mercy rather than vengeance. Because the Father is merciful, so should His children be. Love for adversaries is based on how you treat them, not how they treat you. Loving enemies begins in our hearts, with forgiveness and prayer for them. Prayer is the process by which you bring the issue to God and free yourself. As a result, praying for them will bring you closer to God and allow you to experience God's love for people.

2. Prayerful life (Matt. 6:5-8)

The second principle we would like to point out is a prayerful lifestyle. Prayer is an essential part of life being a Christian. A child of God begins and ends his day with prayer. Prayer is essential in our relationship with God. Prayer brings a person closer to God. God desires that His people pray to Him. Abraham, Moses, Hanna, David, Daniel, Nehemiah, and so on were all prayerful men and women of God. Jesus spent time in prayer and taught His disciples to do the same. Prayer has always been valued highly in Judaism. Still then so-called religious leaders in Jesus' day weren't devoted to prayer. They were praying out of hypocrisy, self-centered prayers to demonstrate their holiness and devotion to prayer. They love to stand and pray in synagogues and on street corners so that men can see them. In such a context Jesus said, "but when you pray, go into your room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." (6:6).

The followers of Christ should not act hypocritically; their prayers should be genuine, not to impress others. The Lord examines the heart. He knows what we are thinking, saying, and doing before we do it. He understands our thoughts perfectly. As a result, Jesus instructs His disciples to refrain from meaningless babbling pagan-like prayers. Now, Jesus does not forbid all long periods of prayer or repetition. He prayed lengthy prayers as well, but the point is that His disciples shouldn't offer pointless, repetitive petitions under the assumption that their length will somehow increase their effectiveness. (6:6-7).

Once you've grasped the concepts, consider the following questions. Do you exhibit exemplary Christian living? Is your life shaped by worldly or biblical standards? The world tells you to despise your enemies and seek vengeance. Jesus Christ commands us to forgive and love our adversaries. The world is full of imposters. Jesus expects a sincere and authentic heart.

Contributed by:



Neha

Lect. Ranjeeta

Pooja

WALK THE TALK

Talking is easier than practicing. A Christian life is not known based on his lecture or talk rather by action. Walk the talk is popular in the western world and even in India. Nevertheless, the Bible is not just a book that speaks rather one must practice it. A true believer of Christ is to follow what the bible says. Jesus said, "if you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love ... you are my friends if you do what I command you." James said, "for if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;" In this article I would like to focus on walk the talk from the book of Joshua chapter 3.

1. Consecration with his word (Josh 3:5)

As the Israelites set out on the next step of their journey to the promise land, they were instructed to sanctify and be consecrated themselves unto the Lord. This instruction does not only apply to the people of God but also to the priests. The Hebrew word for consecrate is "Haram" (Noun) meaning 'to devote and 'Qadash' (verb) meaning 'to set apart' and 'Nazar' meaning 'to separate.' So, when Joshua told the people and the priest to consecrate themselves, it means to set apart for God, or to set their mind and heart to hear from God and obey. And this also means to recognize that they are to live for God. They were totally separated from profane use and cleansed themselves from the filthiness of flesh and spirit. To cross other side of Jordan river was not easy, because Jordan river was not a small river (on the average Jordan river is 33ft 10 meter wide and 6.5ft 2meter deep). It was a large river that was over flowing. They had no idea how they are going to cross the river and therefore the people and the priest were told to make their heart ready to listen to God and obey God. So before reaching to the promise land of God, they were to examine their own life. In the same way, every Christian are to separate from the things that keep away from God.

2. Carrying his word (Josh 3:6)

Reading back to Pentateuch, Levites were commanded to carry the ark of the covenant but in this occasion the priests were told to carry the ark of the covenant. In the Old Testament, the priests were considered significant person and their role was to offer sacrifice and act as a mediator between men and God. During the patriarch times- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob acted as a priest, offering sacrifices to God. We see the role of priest was to carry the ark of the covenant as instructed by Joshua. In the Old Testament, the ark of the covenant was one of the most instrumental symbols of faith and God's presence. Throughout the Old Testament, we see stories of how God provided safety and success using the symbol of the ark. Similarly, the presence of God was with them as the priest carry the ark of the covenant. When we read (v.10) we see other nations had already possessed the land. They might have worried knowing those nation living in the promise land but God promise to drive out those nation before them and they could inherit the land. The weapon for their victory was not shield, soldier but God's presence. As a minister or leader of God, it is important to have a personal experience of God's presence, without God's presence nothings is worth in our life.

3. Standing firm in his word (Josh. 3:17)

According to the commandment given by God in verse 8, the priest obeyed and stood firm in the midst of Jordan. The word stood firmly signifies how firmly the priest believe in the word of the lord and trusted in His power. The faith that they had encouraged them to stand firm so long in the midst of the river. Standing firm opposite is to doubt and fear, it would be impossible for the Israelite to enter to the land that God was giving to them if they doubt the promise of God. One of the purposes of the priest standing firm was to encourage the faith of the people. Reading the last line of verse 17 tells- until all the tribes finished crossing over the Jordan river means they were to stand long period of time because the Israelites were not less in numbers. Likewise, as a believer of Christ and leader, one should believe in God and stand firm like the priest without any doubt. To lead the people, one has to stand firm and people will acknowledge the presence of God in us.

Conclusion

An American actress name Olympia Dukakis once said “I think it’s because most of us talk one way and live another. There are a few people who truly, truly walk the talk.” This is true in Christian circle. Walk the talk among Christian are rare. We speak a lot but do very little. We see within our own context; nominalism is the biggest challenge today– one of the reasons is- there are a lot of Christian who just talk and talk and never put those talk into action. We talk about faith, love, forgiveness but we fail to practice. So, let’s take a challenge to be a better walk the talk, a life that is worthy of calling. In the 21st century we need to be that kind of Christian who doesn’t only talk or preach but also walk the way we talk by consecrating with His word, carrying His word and standing firm in His word.



Jansanglen Kipgen

WRESTLING WITH SITUATIONS (Thorns to walk worthy)

"And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not". Deuteronomy 8:2

One must walk on thorns in order to walk worthy of the Lord. These thorns could represent a variety of problems and obstacles. A person must wrestle with these problems and difficulties in every aspect of daily life. To walk on thorns in the face of adversity and hardship is to walk worthy of the Lord. For the purpose of purging impurities and becoming pure as gold, which is the process of becoming worthy of the Lord, each one of us must pass through a flaming furnace in order to become worthy of the Lord.

1. Hardships serve as a reminder of God

Someone claims that "if there were no troubles in life, no one would remember God." Most people do not consider God in their happiest moments. But, when problems and difficulties arise, people like Israelites remember God. After Joseph's passing, all of Jacob's descendants, who initially numbered seventy, went on to become numerous peoples. When the new king took power in Egypt, the Israelites were subjected to oppression and made slaves in that country. God's servant Moses frees them from Egypt, but after enduring the arduous wilderness experience, they have forgotten God's sustaining hand and provisions. They strayed from God on numerous occasions. But whenever they faced difficult times, they thought about God. Since God has met all of our everyday needs, most of us have forgotten about his provision and sustaining influence in our lives. When person is facing difficult circumstances, be mindful of God's sustaining hand and provisions and wrestle with the hard times. The hard times about God who have done great works in past years and in present situation person must wrestle with all kinds of circumstances.

2. Adverse situations humble a person

"Humility is the gift given upon graduation from the school of affliction"- John C. Maxwell.

A condition in which a person is shattered from all sides. During their time in the wilderness, the Israelites experienced a similar condition in which they faced both emotional and physical challenges. They were humbled by the realization that they could not provide for their own needs but had to rely solely on God. And God gave them manna from heaven to eat. In that condition, they were unable to do anything aside from relying solely on God, and the wilderness experience was meant to humble them. When people are facing with difficult circumstances and terrible experiences, they can only rely on God for relief and needs, which hard situations humbles them. And with those situations person have to wrestle with during the bad times because it could be from God to humble person.

3. The worst situations expose a person's faith in God

The wilderness experiences that they underwent, which they did not know nor did their ancestors know. God was guiding them from Egypt to Canaan through Moses. But throughout that journey, they frequently complained and murmured against God and his representative, Moses. Because they are dubious of God's intentions in providing good land. They were undoubtedly travelling to Canaan, but God had a number of lessons for them to teach and ways for them to put their confidence in God and put it to the test before they got there. God tested them during their wilderness journey to see if they would obey his commands, but they failed to do so. Someone said, "the path that has no obstacles leads to nowhere." There will be many massive obstacles in the way of God in our lives, but we must remain steadfast in our faith because God often tests it in the toughest circumstances. God puts his people in the worst situations to test their faith, but in order to pass the test; a person must wrestle through the worst circumstances and stand firm in faith.

Conclusion

There will be occasions when individuals have to confront a variety of problems, and the mostly of people forget God's provisions and sustaining presence in their lives, just as the Israelites did. People may encounter a variety of difficulties while working in the ministry, including financial issues and other challenges, but throughout these times, each person needs to reflect on his or her previous encounters with God. In order to humble people, difficult experiences serve as a reminder of God and person have to wrestle with these situations in daily life. God frequently places his people in the toughest circumstances in order to test their faith. God wishes to make his people deserving despite their difficult circumstances and it is up to each individual to behave devoutly in the face of the worst conditions. In order to become worthy of the lord person have to go through these worst situations and difficulties.



Sukhchain Singh

Holistic Approach: Transforming an Outcast Community

A person who is shunned by their community, their families, or both are considered an outcast. Being kicked out of a community or nation is regarded as being an outcast and one who does not belong in mainstream culture, which can add to a feeling of loneliness. In the present Indian context, transformation is essential to bring a marginalized group of people to the same status as other group members. It is essential to change the mindsets and attitudes of the upper classes, treat marginalized people with the same respect as other ethnic groups, and promote a broad awakening.

1. General understanding of the concept of transforming an outcast community

Caste has developed over thousands of years because of the union of numerous racial and ethnic groupings into a single cultural framework. "The word "caste," which comes from the Portuguese word "casta," is an expression of the Indian word "jati," (E.D. Setty, 5) which refers to tribes, clans, or families. The Brahmins are the first division, followed by the Kshatriyas, the Vsyas, and the Sudras. Moreover, below the Sudras, there are people who are called untouchables, outcasts, depressed classes, or scheduled castes. There are hundreds of castes of outcast's community. The term Panchama means the fifth one, alluding to a non-existent fifth varna. All these groups later came to be called outcasts, Dalits, or scheduled castes. There are committees of elders that are governed by people of higher social status, and they have the authority to expel people from society and to enforce caste rules. An outcast is someone who is excluded from a society or who is rejected by society or his or her home. No one wants to be an outcast, but their peers and society reject such people. To elevate a marginalized group of individuals to the same status as other members of the group, transformation is required in the current Indian setting. It is necessary to alter the mindsets and attitudes of the upper classes, treat marginalized people with the same respect as other ethnic groups, and encourage a general awakening.

2. Biblical concept of transforming an outcast community

God banned all forms of prejudice, including classism. God has always been concerned about those who are outcast or depressed. God did not abandon them; he has the same degree of affection for everyone. Samaritans are considered an outcast community, despite the fact that Jews and Samaritans are not friends. Although it was forbidden for Jews to travel there, Jesus Christ destroyed the bonds of division by going to Samaria. Jesus interacts with them despite being forbidden to do so. Jesus shared the same level of affection with them as he does with all of humanity in order to destroy the bonds of classism by living among them. They were spiritually distant from God, emotionally depressed, and socially outcast, but Jesus brought about overall change in Israel's socially corrupt environment. For Samaritans to have equal rights, Jesus completely abolished the constraints of classism. Peter was commanded by God to consume everything he had seen in the vision; these reptiles and animals represented the Gentiles. Because God desires to abolish the barriers separating Jews and Gentiles. The spirit of the lord said to Peter, the three men are looking for you rise and go with them because I have sent them. Next day with those three men, Peter visits Cornelius, a Gentile at Caesarea. He spoke to them about Jesus' love while he was

there. God has revealed this vision to bring about a transformation in people's mindsets and attitudes towards the Gentile community. God is impartial and prefers neither races nor nations. He had the same level of affection for each person, and community.

3. Holistic approach

For an outcast community to transform, it must do it holistically. India's social evil begs for transformation.

3.1. Physical approach

Without access to food, clothing, and shelter as well as medical care, the majority of people died. Bread, clothing, and shelter are a person's three fundamental physical necessities. How long can an individual go without food and clothing? A person needs a place to rest and sleep, at a minimum. Due to a person's inability to afford food, clothing, shelter, and even medical care when ill, poverty could lead to problems and issues that result in depression, grief, and even death. Bread, clothing, a place to live, and the initial medical care that should be given to them are their fundamental requirements. Because of their outcast status, outcasts are unable to receive medical care at elite hospitals and are paid insufficient wages for their occupation. Such problems result in a lack of necessities, which causes melancholy, grief, and even death and Suicide. That attitude and behavior must be altered.

3.2. Emotional approach

"An outcast feels inferior, on other hand the upper-class members of the group maintain their superiority complex" (E.D. Setty, 91). Outcasts in the community feel hurt, pain, and depression, and they are emotionally challenged by the society of upper-class people. Though outcasts hold higher positions, they are still treated differently than others, both on the outside and inside. Nonetheless, social distance rules the hearts of outcast people who are emotionally challenged by high-class people. The awakening has to come among people who still hold on to unjustified, irreligious, and ungodly behavior towards an outcast community.

3.3. Sociological approach

"Under the social dimension, the first and most important act is the abolition of untouchability and injustice. It is a revolutionary measure that gives social position and reorganization to an outcast community. Outcast people need reservations for admissions in educational institutions and jobs under union and state service commissions" (E.D. Setty, 93). Socially, when other people mistreat an outcast person, there should be police action to take them into custody. Though children of outcasts and children of upper-class study together, they are still mistreated in some places and in some ways, and their ideologies and mindsets must be changed to bring equality among all peoples.

3.4. Spiritual approach

There are different castes within the outcasts' people group, each with their own god and goddess, and all of them have tried to find the truth and hope but failed. Outcasts are socially isolated, emotionally drained, and spiritually disconnected from God. In their sorrow, suffering, and sad state, they have no hope and comfort of God. The Samaritan woman was socially, physically, and emotionally challenged by her community until Jesus went to her and calmed her by demonstrating God's compassion, love and hope and Jesus spiritually drove her toward hope and the truth. People who are considered outcasts require a spiritual approach in order to receive the truth; Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life.

Conclusion

Although constitutional and administrative measures are helping outcasts, the most difficult and sensitive issue is ensuring social justice for outcasts in India. The upper classes' ideologies and mindsets must be changed, and outcasts must be treated as human beings in the same way that other ethnic groups are. "A good-hearted political leader, social reformers with genuine goals, and social workers with genuine sincerity would advocate for and work towards treating an outcaste group of people as equals with regard and respect" (E.D. Setty, 208). An individual group, community, or society naturally expects to be treated with respect and acceptance. No one wants to be viewed as inferior, regardless of their age, sex, profession, or other life achievements. It is a universal human desire to be respected and recognized. There is a need for a democratic upsurge on the part of an outcast community and a meaningful, relevant, and justified transformation of attitude on the part of the upper class. It is necessary to transform an outcast person's worst circumstance into one that is worthy of Christ by giving them hope in Christ and introducing them to the saving knowledge of Christ. This will enable them to live lives that are worthy of Christ.

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Joy Gill

INFLUENCING PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

The term “pluralism” has come to be widely used in connection with theologies of cultures and religions within last few decades. The term has been defined in different forms. “Pluralism generally refers to the existence together in society of people of different beliefs, ways of life, cultures, races, religions and ancestries” (Dasan Jeyaraj and others, 184) India is a pluralistic society and it is important for the church to reach the different people groups. The Church can reach all the people of different religion, caste, language and cultures by influencing through the lifestyle of Christ.

1. India as Pluralistic Society

“Indian society is Plural because it has several ethnicities, thousands of castes; languages and dialects. It is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country” (S.L. Doshi, 224). It is a land of diversities woven together and has been characterized as an indigenous civilization and is also known as a nation of unity in diversity (Yogesh Atal, 14). There are different faces of pluralism in India namely, religious Pluralism, language pluralism, caste pluralism and cultural pluralism. Religious Pluralism is a part of larger plurality of races, peoples and cultures, of social structures, etc. According to United Nations Declaration, “freedom from religious persecution is a universal human right” (Barbara Miller, 307) and thus, it is in India. Language Pluralism: the term pluralism also has its approach to language as it refers to the diversity in the use of different languages for the purposes of speaking, writing, teaching, learning etc. “According to the census of India (2011), there were 121 major languages in India with 1599 other languages” (Census Data, Internet source). Caste Pluralism: “the caste system in India is social partition of society broadly into four ‘varna’ originally meaning ‘colour.’ In this sense, the existence of various caste groups within a society is a scenario not dissimilar to the existence of different racial or cultural groups in a society” (Mohan Dass Namishray, 37-38). Cultural Pluralism: Culture refers to people’s learned and shared behaviors and beliefs. According to E.B. Tylor, “Anything which is learned as a member of group is culture.” As India is a Pluralistic society, it consists of different people groups and all of them have their own cultural practices and they pass or share it to their further generations in order to maintain a unique identity of their own group.

2. Pluralism in Bible and Influence of God’s people on Society

2.1. Old Testament

Bible is an ancient text and there are several contexts in the Bible, in which the pluralism seems to be in existence. The Old Testament mentions about varying contexts i.e., Egyptian context, Assyrian context, Babylonian context, Medo-Persian Context and there are glances of many other nations and the people whose cultures, beliefs, races, ancestries, ways of living life and all of their religions were different from each other. “The fact must be recognized that the Bible is written in pluralistic contexts” (Dasan, 165). There are different personalities in the Bible who by being obedient to God and His calling did great works for the Lord and influenced the societies they lived among. Life of Daniel would be the best example of influencing another culture or race group. He was so much influential through his works and good ethics

in foreign land that the king Nebuchadnezzar exalted and praised the name of Yahweh (Daniel 4:37). Although, some of the personalities exalted the name of the Lord in different cultures and contexts but still if we look in a wider context, from opposite perspective the nation Israel as whole failed to influence the pluralistic society of that era. Instead of bringing them to the Lord, they were drifted away from the Lord and indulged in the cultures and practices of foreign people and started to worship other gods. Thus, in response to such behavior the Church need to have a firm commitment to the Lord in order not to be drifted away from the Lord.

2.2. New Testament

The New Testament is also same as the Old Testament because it is also written in pluralistic contexts, where varying people existed in the society. Other than Jews, there were gentiles (outcast Jews and others), Barbarians, etc., who were diverged in their culture, beliefs, race, religion, etc. If we see from the time of early church, the church influenced people in a wide range. Unlike Old Testament people's failure, "The biblical picture in the New Testament points out that there is no other name except Jesus Christ for salvation of human kind" (V.S. Lalrinawma, 205).

3. Church's Influence on the Pluralistic society

Since India is a pluralistic society, the people of different culture, caste, religion and language live in this country. Therefore, being in such nation, it is hard to attract the society towards Christ because in some of the societies, everyone wants to be stucked on their own beliefs and cultures. But still the Indian society can be impacted by Christianity because of the post-modern understanding of the people and assimilation of cultures. Today, the society tends to change their cultures and practices according to their likability and need. Thus, the Church today has a chance to influence the society of India but unlike the people of Israel, it needs to have a strong commitment to the Lord, to obey Him, work for Him enthusiastically conversely like Daniel, if every individual believer is righteous in their jobs, works and routine life, it is sure that people of the society will be impacted by the Church and Christianity. It can influence the pluralistic society like India by maintaining Christian ethics in their day-to-day life and such conduct of the Church will influence the pluralistic society and the people of different races, practices, beliefs, etc. will be transformed by the right practical ethical conduct of the church that is worthy to Lord as well as influential to the society.

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Naowang



Sukhdev Ram



Ashish Kumar

The Role of Christian Youth: Impacting Christ like Character in the Market-Place

Youths are young and the most vibrant being on earth and the future of humanity belongs to them. The beauty of youth is that they have time, energy and capacity to accomplish many good things in this world. Youth life is a precious gift of God and a person will reap what he/she sows. This age also is very vulnerable where a person needs to be very strong mentally, physically, and spiritually. This is the turning point of human life where a person needs to decide for the future.

A Christian youth role model should be Christ: nevertheless today, many youth Christians are influenced with the world's heroes/icon. Human idols may disappoint us, but Christ will never let us down. If a person follows the footsteps of Christ- he/she can achieve greater things in life both in spiritual and physical world. In order to follow Christ, a person must practice love, peace, joy, gentleness, obedience, patience, humility, forgiveness and self-control, etc. (Gal 5:22) without which a person can never be a true follower of Christ.

In today's generation, youth can play a vital role in the society by helping, leading and serving in all aspects of life. They can contribute in many ways. So, we will be highlighting some of the areas where a Christian youth can influence the people- both in physical and spiritual world.

1. Christian youth as a light- Millions of youths are lost in this generation because they are influenced by the darkness. As a Christian youth, we should know that we are the light and salt among our friends and communities (Matt 5:13-14). Faith in Jesus is the foundation to shine in the darkness. When we communicate in love with our friends, we show the right ways and become like a lamp in the darkness. For instance, we should not smoke, get drunk, cheat, gossip and other negative behaviors because they see how we live, react and treat them. We don't need to write 'Christians' in our forehead in order to bring change in the society. We just need to behave like Christ and treat them like Christ.

2. Christian youth lifestyle- Our lifestyle plays important factor in the community. We can make a difference by living like Christ every day. As a Christian youth, we should lead others in the community by good example.

- Show positivity, smile and do good work. Be kind to all people and love neighbors as ourselves and avoid all negative behaviors. We should live every single day with the right attitude in the society.
- Love others and be willing to help them even cost of ourselves. This is a fundament commandment of Jesus. We should love all people of all race, creed, gender and culture. We can't make positive difference if we are cursing or making negative criticism. We should be respectful, honorable and humble and patient etc. while engaging with people.
- We may say- God so love the world that He sent his only son (John 3:16). However, until we show the same love to those in our community, it would be difficult for other to see the positive change caused by our faith. In the New Testament, people were called as Christians because they exhibit Christ like character. It shows that our character and lifestyle is very important if we want to bring changes in the society.

And by this ways, Christian's youths can encourage other friends to grow in Christ and become servant of God.

3. Youth as an NGO Leader- As a young NGO (Non-governmental organization) leader the goal and vision must be to help other and uphold the mission of the organization. A leader has the capacity to influence others in the attainment of the organization goals. A leader must have absolute integrity and strong principles which does not compromise. A leader must lead with love and passion (Eph 3:19). They must have servanthood attitude like Jesus (Mk 10:45). As a young Christian NGO leader, he/she can help the community in many different areas and by helping the community they can spread the love of Christ. As Bible commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt 22:37-39), it is an obligation for every Christian to fulfill this command. This can be achieved by works and not only by words.

4. Youth as a political leader- In the olden days, youths or young people were not allowed to lead in many areas, they were subjected to their elders. Whereas at present scenario youth can involve in many areas of life in the society, even in the highest decision-making either in the government or organization. "Due to the changing leadership in politics, now the active politicians belong to all age group- from young to those who are in the late eighties" (Yogesh Atal, 223). The youths have the highest privileges to serve at the highest level in the society. But, first he/she need to overcomes certain stereotypes that to be a politician a person needs to lie, cheat and indulge in malpractice. However, these are not true because the government itself is instituted by God. There is a saying that a service to men is service to God. Likewise, Christian youths can be a good politician and serve the people like Jesus did with love, humility, gentleness, justice, patience and with servanthood attitude. Therefore, as a young Christian, a political leader, is a very good platform to influence the people with Christ like character. So that whenever they see the person, they will see Christ.

In the 21st century, youths have a greater role in the society and they can take part in any social activities. Youth life is the best time to serve the Lord with the gifts that he bestowed upon us and we should serve with love, joy, faithfulness and passion for His glory. A person can share the gospel more effectively with actions rather than mere words. Therefore, let us be that 'youth' who inspires people with godly deeds and character. Let us be that 'youth' who love to bring changes in the society. Let us be that 'youth' who love to serve God and his people.

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A Transformed Parent & Child Relationship



**Rev. Robin C. Varughese
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The bond between a parent and child is one of the most special and meaningful in all of human existence. Children go through phases of life when they really want to please their parents and others and they just want to run away from them. Some parents will be overjoyed knowing as God's great gift in the family, while others may be prepared to give away the child to anybody who wants to adopt in their family. Relationships between parents and children are rich however it can be complicated, and fraught with ups and downs.

In Ephesians 6:1-4, focuses on how the transforming power of Christ affects the connection between children and their parents. This relationship is founded on trust, unconditional love, mutual respect, acceptance, and adaptability between the involved individuals. Here, Paul teaches both children and parents to show Christlike respect by submitting to one another.

1. To Children: Respecting parents shows reverence for God (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Paul says that "it is the appropriate thing to do" for children to obey their parents. It is understood that children should listen to their parents even in pagan cultures and ways of thinking. Before they are old enough to care for themselves, parents watch over their children by guiding and training them. To obey is to listen and act upon what one has heard. Hearing and acting are the two main components. When Paul refers to "children," he is referring to infants and children who are still living at home with their parents.

Moreover, Paul teaches that when a child obeys his or her parents, it is also obeying God the Father. God's plan for children is for them to trust and follow their parents, since doing so is a mirror of their trust and obedience to God. Paul continues by arguing that obedience is morally justifiable.

Paul again refers back to the Ten Commandments and emphasises that children are to "respect their father and mother" as one of God's instructions to them. He brings to our attention the fact that God has promised if we obey His instruction, "things will go well for you, and you will enjoy a long life on the earth," and he reminds us of this promise. This promise states that, in general, children who do what they are told by their parents will have an easier life and be exposed to less risk throughout the course of their development.

The parent-child relationship will, of course, evolve throughout the course of our lives, but one thing will never change is, the importance of respecting and acknowledging our parents. Paul's advice on children to submit to their parents are applicable to all ages whether five years old, fifteen years old, twenty-five years old, or 55 years old. Children need to understand that the adults in their lives are in positions of power because God put them there, and that showing respect to those adults shows respect to God. We need to make it a priority to pay respect to our moms and dads as much as it is in our power. We need to appreciate our parents is, not because they are deserving of it, rather when we do so, we are also honouring the Lord in the process.

2. To parents: love God by discipling their children (Ephesians 6:4)

This command is aimed towards fathers, but it also applies to mothers. Paul advises on parents to be cautious in how they treat their children. They should try to teach their children the proper way to live, but they must do it in a manner that respects the child and does not damage their heart.

Paul suggests that parents should teach their children, but they shouldn't do anything to make them angry. Every parent understands that there are circumstances in which it is essential to act in a manner that will anger their children. Paul is not suggesting that we should go to any lengths to keep our children from becoming angry. He was saying that we need to make an effort to raise our children in a manner that shows respect for them as individuals. This indicates that we need to pay attention to the manner in which we speak to our children. It is important that we should not degrade or humiliate our children while we are teaching them. We need to stay well clear of teasing, sarcasm, and abusive language.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-7, The Israelites were given commandments by God, who then instructed them to steadfastly abide to those rules and continue passing them down to future generations. We need to continue doing the same thing today. It is important that we create every opportunity to teach our children the truths that are found in the Bible. Pray often with your children as a family. On a regular basis, read the Bible to or with your children. Consider applying the biblical ideas we have been studying to the issues that are being discussed at the table. Remind our child that God loves all of us and desires for us to exhibit kindness to one another if they bring up the topic of abusing another youngster. Children will learn the importance of good stewardship of money if we encourage them to give the Lord a part of their income. Demonstrate to them how can we determine the amount of assistance that can provide, and then urge them to adopt our life strategy.

To summarise, it is essential that children submit to their parents' authority, not only it honours God, but also because it is often beneficial. As they carefully form their children into the individuals God made them to be, parents must place their own wants and comforts second to their children's needs for direction and nutrition. These directions are not easy to follow. However, in order to succeed, Paul encourages us to extend our vision and prioritise the needs of others above our own. Finally, we have turn to God as an example of how to act in this scenario. He made numerous sacrificial gifts as a result of his deep love for every one of us. Whatever role we play in life, whether as a parent or a child, a husband or a wife, or in any other capacity, we have a duty to follow the example that God has set before us. This entails loving others to the extent that we are prepared to sacrifice our own desires and comforts for the greater welfare of those around us.

IT'S HARD!



**Rev. Anu Varghese
(Dean of Student)**

Most of the things in life are fairly simple to use, but they can be extremely difficult to create. Making such items may necessitate a significant amount of time, energy, resources, patience, and so on. Sadly, most individuals are unaware of, or are unwilling to learn about, the difficulties involved in producing something they use every day. People cannot respect something unless they understand the hardship and grief that went into making it, especially if it is freely given to them.

To be acceptable in God's presence, people engage in a variety of customs and rituals. Some of the practises for that include making sacrifices, going to sacred sites, fasting, and giving up one's arms. But regrettably, none of these can lead anybody into God's presence. Humans are cut off from God's presence as a result of sin. Jesus declared in John 14:6, **"I am the Way, and there is no other way to the Father than through Me."** Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father.

It is serious to consider *Why* and *How* Jesus prepared the route for us to walk. "But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far off have been brought close by the blood of Christ," Ephesians 2: 13 states. Jesus prepared the way for the people to come close the Father by sacrificing His blood.

Humans were once separated from God's presence because of their transgressions against Him. Due to the nature of sin, it was impossible to have a relationship with God. Despite being supreme in many areas, they are unable to access God's presence. Nothing or no one in the world could assist them in approaching God's presence so they might engage in fellowship. Because of the power of sin, everyone has fallen short of

God's glory. Jesus' sinlessness made him the one and only means to reconcile humanity with God. He served as the mediator between the divine and human, bringing about their reconciliation with the almighty.

Since everyone was subjected to the bonds of sin, it was impossible for a human to approach God on their own. In order to fulfil the debt owed for the deliverance, payment was required. Repeated offerings or other formalities could not render a person perfect in the eyes of God. "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Hebrews 10: 4). Yet Jesus came to this world in the form of a servant and became obedient to the point of death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. By sacrificing His life as a ransom for many, Jesus established a new path to the Father that no one else could have prepared. That didn't sound so nice and easy, and it was difficult to execute something as difficult as giving others life by taking their sins. Yet, that was the only way to go to the Father.

Because of His unwavering love for humanity, God sent His only Son. The Lord intended to destroy him (Isaiah 53:10) in order to redeem the other children who had been driven away by the force of sin. Because of this, the Father was willing to send His Son through the humiliation, sorrow, and anguish, and the Jesus was submissive to His Father in bearing it all. Even though salvation is a free gift, it is the result of the Father and Son's sacrificial love. It was quite difficult. Thus, *it is necessary to understand the hardship and walk worthy of our calling in the way which Jesus had opened for us.*

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Greek word for transformation in Romans 12:2, has the meaning of being changed into another form. Transformation is the progressive, ongoing measurable supernatural impact of the presence and power of God working through the church or nation on human society and structures. It involves seeking positive change in the whole of human life materially, socially and spiritually (Luis K. Bush, 37). Firstly, leader needs to transform himself/herself, have spiritual foundation with God before he leads people towards transformation. James Mac Gregor Burns first used the term transformational leadership in 1978 to describe a process of leaders and followers to advance to a higher level of morale and motivation (Luis K Bush, 93).

1. Necessity- A good transformational leader is a necessity at different organization level. If there is no leader to direct a team or an organization, that organization will become like a boat that has lost its direction in the sea because there is no rower and members are inevitable: delayed decisions, conflicts and success is difficult. Leaders not only lead group but also dramatically change the direction of the group to achieve their goals. Today's Myanmar which is rich in natural resources faces many conflicts and becomes one of the poorest countries because of lack of transformational leadership.

2. Role- Leaders of today who wish to transform our world need to follow the characteristics of leadership, taught and exemplified by apostle Paul. God wants our churches and the world to be transformed from inward - looking, to be living, loving, caring, people who move together in unity (Eph 4:11-16). A leader must go beyond being a people pleaser to being a God's power (Tom Marshall, 82). Transformational leadership should not be bigot, and should be a good listener (James 1:19). Moreover, transformational leadership approach motivates and encourage employees to innovate and create the change necessary to shape the future success of the society (Bill Hybels, 12). Nelson Mandela, a transformational leader and South African's president was this kind of leader.

3. Responsibility- A leader has responsibility and needs to develop others to success in their roles and prepare for future roles. Others avoid leadership positions because leaders are carrying the weight of responsibility. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11). A transformational leader must stand firmly and be a castle of refuge for followers when facing difficulties and castigation. Aung Sang Suu Kyi, transformational leader in Myanmar and the daughter of a national hero stands firmly from the public side. She was offered freedom to leave the country but refused. When she saw the sufferings of her citizens, she could not keep quiet for them.

4. Authority- A Transformational leader can use authority to transform a team and organization to the next level. Authority is an essential attribute of leadership and leaders can't function effectively without it. Christ spoke with authority, acted and taught with it even demons, wind and water obeyed Him (Matt 8:26,32). But the misuse of authority is one of the leadership's main failings and makes against the leaders. Unfortunately, we see the same power-hunger in the Church and politics. Some Christian leaders build a human empire, instead of the Kingdom of God. An important question for leaders is "Am I building people or building my dream and using people to do it?" (John Max Well). Bible warns clearly about the abusing power (2 Ch 26:15-16). Uzziah, king of Judah was powerful and his pride led to his downfall. We can see this thirst for power everywhere- in politics, civil conflict and trades secret power for money. Today, Myanmar's conflicts, the world's longest civil war is because of the same power-hunger of military leaders.

5. Importance- Any nation or organization which has a unique success are those who understand the importance of transformational leadership. The world and organization around us keep changing. Cooperation with God is the foundation of leadership for any situation. There are multiple benefits and effective aspects that are important in today's society. In today's context, Singapore, a small Urban country from Southeast Asia becomes one of the most developed countries because of her great transformational leader, Lee Kuan Yew. He led all Singaporeans to transform Singapore from a poor and weak country with a rich and strong country today. He transformed Singapore from a poor country with only human resources to a strong economy and internationally recognized country. He championed home ownership and today, Singapore has one of the highest home ownership rates in the world, with 90% of Singaporeans owning home.

Transformational leadership is focused on motivation for followers to create change, innovative and shape the future. Leaders have to abandon self-interest to achieve the goals of groups. And then transformational leadership is all about vision, responsibility and influences for multiple benefits.



Ezekiel



Sukhchain Singh

WALK WORTHY

*Even I am mature in age
Still, I walk like small child
And My Creator remind me
Walk worthy, Walk worthy*

*I am pleasing my fleshly desires
Instead of pleasing him,
I am bearing thorns
Rather than bearing good fruits,
Repeatedly he reminds me
Walk worthy, Walk worthy*

*By my unpleasant ways
I am crucifying Jesus every day,
But again and again,
Lord reminds me
Walk worthy, Walk worthy*

*I was suppressed by my trespasses
Moreover, Jesus has forgiven my
trespasses
He cleanses me with his Holy blood
Again, He reminds me
My son walks worthy, walk worthy*

Bear fruit in your living



Naowang

*"Live" life by the Spirit to bear fruit...!
The fruit will appear. Who remain in Christ
He is the Vine, you are the Branches;
Abide in Him to bear fruit*

*He calls you to be Worthy, not impure
He Choose you to bear fruit.
Live, as Children's of Light.*

*Be, Wise in every aspect of your living
Be an example by walking in the truth.
Have patience in your live, in trial and test.*

*Come willingly, to do good work for all Men.
Do things which is good in His eyes.
Do not be proud of your life; take no offense.
Love one another, love must be sincere
Stay joyful for the future hope.*

*Gratify the desires of the Sinful Nature...!
Go, astray from the worldly desire
Fear the Lord; Do it what He taught
Wait patiently for God; to reveal His will to you.*

*Rejoice in the Lord,
In the midst of hardship and suffering.
Know Him more,
Read His words, And become like Christ Character
Put His Amours to face Evil
Your body belong to Him; be holy minded
Your heart should not be Stubborn.
Live a life for Lord, And bear fruit in every good work.*



Sukhdev Ram

TESTIMONY

My name is Sukhdev and I belong to district Ferozepur, Punjab. I was raised in a Sikh family. I was an idolater before I came to a saving knowledge of Christ. I and my family were worshipping other gods. During those days, I was suffering from a serious liver illness, so I went to my gods and goddesses and performed all the necessary rites, but I was not healed. I attempted suicide multiple times as a result of that issue. Nevertheless, in my suffering I heard the name of Jesus through my aunt in 2019. Soon after I hear, I believed Christ and was baptized. After accepting Christ, I was cured from my liver problem. As a result of that my family also accepted Christ as their Savior.

While I was fasting, I had a dream about working on God's field, but I wasn't absolutely sure God had called me to do so. Later, I made the decision to attend Bible College in order to confirm my calling, but I was not having the necessary funds to study. However, my parents arranged fund and sent me to Bible College. In 2021, I was enrolled in Himachal Bible College and Seminary for Diploma in Theology. While studying at HBCS, I received confirmation of my call from God's servants. During two years of course, I have gone through a financial crisis and different hardships, moreover, God comforted and provided to all my needs. Throughout two years of studies, it was God's grace I could experience the grow in the knowledge of Christ and God molded me in various ways which helped to walk worthy of the lord. At my study, I was weak yet the Lord helped me in studies and teachers were able to help me to be rooted in the word of God. As I graduate, I am preparing for God's ministry, so that I may become a useful vessel for his kingdom and glory.

TESTIMONY



Sukhdev Ram

My name is Sukhcahain. I am from Chak Duhe Wala, district Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab. I belong to a family that once followed the Sikh and Hindu religion. We (family) were idolaters and performed rituals of ancestor worship before accepting Christ as our Savior. Regularly, I bowed down to those statues and offered adoration to a variety of deities. A movement came in life when I have to go for my studies to my aunt's house due to some reasons. All of them were Christian and there for a first time I heard the name of Christ. After the completion of my studies, I returned back to home. When I told my family about Christ at home, they refused to embrace him because they did not want to give up their gods and goddesses. My mother and sister were soon possessed by an evil spirit, and despite seeking the help of numerous sorcerers, didn't receive freedom from it. Sooner, my parents approached to me and declared that they were ready to accept Christ. I experienced how the Holy Scripture fulfilled as it was written, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts.16:31). God used aunt so that I may know Christ and God used me so that my entire family may be saved. As a family we accepted Christ in 2018 and was baptized on July 30, 2018. Currently, our family is associated with "Believer Eastern Church."

Sooner I received a call from the Lord to serve him in his kingdom, but I repeatedly refused. After finishing my studies, I was employed as a lab technician. I spent some time there, but I was not truly satisfied, so I quit the job and chose to serve the Lord. I arrived in Himachal Pradesh at HBCS for my biblical studies after confronting a number of challenges and tribulations. Throughout three years, studies in HBCS helped me lot to grow in the knowledge of Christ and, which helped me to walk worthy of the Lord. As graduating student, I am preparing to involve in pastoral ministry. I am also interested to minister among the youth. As my burden become heavier for the perishing young souls in the dark world. I pray to the Lord Jesus Christ that all of my God-given talents and gifts may bring glory and honor to my Lord in the mission field.

GLANCE of HBCS

Graduation Ceremony - 2022



**Amruta Bag [Academic Dean]
Presenting the Certificate**



**Anu Varughese [Registrar]
Presenting the Grauates**



**Longtsubeni Ezung
Felicitation**



**R. Neirengthang Kom
Message giving by
Student Representative**



Student Receiving Certificate from the President



**Lect. Bony John Mathew
Vote of Thanks**



**Rev. Mark Stickland
Chief Guest**



**Rev. Regi Mathai
Felicitation**



Releasing of Sheaves Magazine



2021-22 Graduating Students with Dignitaries

HBCS Faculty



Workshop on Skill Development



2022-23 Graduating Class with Teachers



HBCS Students and Staff 2022-23





Certificate in Theology



Diploma in Theology - I



Diploma in Theology - II



Bachelor of Theology - I



Bachelor of Theology - II



Bachelor of Theology - III



Master of Divinity



HBCS' Staff with Studentbody



Graduating Class of 2022 - 2023





Spiritual Activity on Campus



Faculty on the move.....

For years, Bony John Mathew & Longtsubeni Ezung served with Himachal Bible College and Seminary as a teaching faculty. They are leaving the campus for their Doctoral studies. Thank you for being passionate about teaching the future generation of leaders. We appreciate your service. As you leave the school, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors and hope you will keep in touch with us from time to time.

HBCS Team



Bony John Mathew



Longtsubeni Ezung

Foundation Day Celebration in HBCS Campus



*Honouring the Founder
Dr. Sam Abraham*



Cultural Night



Christmas Celebration





College Annual Sports



College Picnic



Students at Library



Classroom Learning



Serving and Manual Work



Workshops



Recording time in HBCS studio



Teachers Day Celebration



Congratulations graduates!

We are proud of you!

Your hard work we applaud.

May you achieve all your wishes, with a life of blessing from God.

***with best complements from
Dr. Sam Abraham & Family***





Himachal Bible College & Seminary

EQUIPPING CHOSEN PEOPLE TO FULFIL CHRIST'S GREAT COMMAND & THE COMMISSION

Accredited by Asia Theological Theological (ATA)

Associated with Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU)

Special Features:

- Well qualified faculties from various fields
- English learning atmosphere
- Modern library facility
- Interactive learning with international guest teachers
- Skill based education
- Contemporary based learning



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- Certificate in Theology (C.Th)
- Diploma in Theology (Dip.Th) (ATA)
- Bachelor of Theology (B.Th) (ATA)

MLCU Associated Programmes

- Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies
- Bachelor of Theology (B.Th)
- Master of Arts in Christian Studies
- Master of Divinity (M.Div)

Extension Program:

- Bachelor of Theology (B.Th)
- Master of Divinity (M.Div)

Focus:

To prepare candidate in cognitive development, Christlikeness and spiritual basement for the ecclesial and missional leadership

Our Watch word:

- Academic formation
- Character formation
- Spiritual formation

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FOR
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