

What I Love About Being a Christian

I love being a child of the King! Why?

First, Christians have a family. God designed the physical family in the paradise of Eden (cf. Genesis 2:7; 18). Most of us enjoy that blessing from God. In the New Testament, God gave us a second family—relationships with other church members. If our physical family fails us, especially, God has given us the substitute of a family in Christ (cf. Mark 10:29–30). Christians love to sing of this truth:

*We're part of the family, that's been born again,
Part of the family, whose love knows no end,
For Jesus has saved us, and made us His own,
Now we're part of the family that's on its way home!*

Second, Christians have a function. Our foremost purpose in life is to bring glory to our Father (cf. Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12). Therefore, our aim is to do “in word or deed” all we do by the authority of Jesus Christ (cf. Colossians 3:17; Acts 4:7–10). Our speech (Colossians 4:6), attitudes (Philippians 2:1–5), clothing (1 Timothy 2:9–10; 1 Peter 3:3–4), and daily work (Colossians 3:22) should reflect Jesus (1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6).

Third, Christians have a future. Those in Christ have a wonderful future no matter what their situation today. God's Book affirms that the Christian's future is bright (Luke 10:20; 1 Peter 1:1–9; Romans 6:22). Truly, I know not what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow!

A family, function, and future—all free. Jesus is still taking followers!

~ Rodney Nulph, *Gospel Gazette* (via *Bulletin Digest*) ~

Faith Check

It is always good for a person to do regular checkups on themselves and their lives. We know the importance of this physically, mentally, and even financially. But too often we neglect to do this spiritually – and this is the most important area of all.

In Micah's day, there were questions of how best to demonstrate one's faith in God. Was it simply just going through the motions of required sacrifices and offerings? No. Their faith was to be more than an outward ritual – it was to be proper outward actions based upon the proper inward attitude. The prophet summed it up with these words: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). In this verse are three areas that each of us must check up on regularly in regard to our faith.

* **Christian, Check Your Righteousness.** The first check point was “to do justly.” Being just is being right with God and His will. It is living right, living morally, and living properly in our daily walk. It is always conducting oneself in an upright and upstanding manner. The internal attitude that creates this is a passion to please God. So, Christian, check your life – is it one that is admirable according to God's standard?

* **Christian, Check Your Respect for Others.** The second bit of advice from Micah 6:8 was “to love mercy.” Properly respecting others is treating them as God treats us – with kindness, love, and forgiveness. It is selflessly giving to others what is needed in their lives. The internal attitude that brings this forth is a joy of the mercy and salvation that God has given us. So, Christian, check your life – is it one filled with eagerly helping others? (continued Page 3)

If God says it's sin, then your opinion doesn't matter.

News & Notes

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

OFFERING: Beginning next Sunday, Dec. 25th, the men will be collecting our monetary offering at the pews instead of us using the collection box in the foyer.

NO NEW YEAR'S EVE GATHERING: Instead, we will have a **covered dish dinner on Sunday, Jan, 1st,** followed by our early afternoon service.

HOME VISITS: Beginning in **January,** our Elders and Bro. Rico will be making visits to delinquent members' homes in an effort to restore them.

PANTRY: Canned fruit

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Elaine McClung, Randy & Susan Beagle, Jim Hadley, Linda Parkes, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck

The Gospel Is for All

The gospel of Christ is:

Free. Even the poor can obtain it: “The poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matthew 11:5).

Plain. Even the uneducated can understand it: “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge” (Ephesians 3:1–6; cf. 2 Timothy 2:7).

Equalizing. The humble are raised by it and the proud are humbled by it (1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10).

Powerful. The weak are strengthened by it: “It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Romans 1:16).

Encouraging. The depressed are encouraged by it: “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5–6).

Comforting. The sorrowful are consoled by it: “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3–4).

Compensating. Obedient believers are rewarded by it for their works of faith and labors of love (Mark 10:28–30).

Are you following the true gospel of Christ?

- Author Unknown (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

Faith Check (continued from Page 2)

* **Christian, Check Your Relationship With God.** The final part of our faith checkup is mentioned as “to walk humbly with your God.” Walking with God implies harmony and fellowship. This is attained through reading and studying the Scriptures, regular and fervent prayer, and heartfelt, proper worship. The internal attitude that strengthens this is a desire to grow closer to God. So, Christian, check your life – is it one that honors and involves God in every way?

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway Church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY (via *Bulletin Gold*) -