



F.Y.C.

For Your Consideration

The word is well-known. It's been around for almost 2,000 years. Its first use is found in the New Testament. The word:

CHRISTIAN

Acts 11:16 – ... *the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

Acts 26:28 – Agrippa replied to Paul, *“In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”*

1 Peter 4:16 –*if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.*

WHO WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS?

Disciples: Defined as a pupil, an adherent; imitator of their teacher.

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, *“If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.”*

Joh.8:31

WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?

Being a Christian involves more than wearing a name.

More than belonging to a church.

More than believing.

It's being a true disciple!

IT'S PERSONAL

Christ doesn't save nations, churches, or families. He saves individuals.

Note the personal pronoun: *“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”*

Mark 16:16

A CHRISTIAN IS A

BELIEVER: one who has put his/her faith and trust in Jesus.

DISCIPLE: learning of Him, learning from Him, and lovingly obeying Him.

Let Your Light Shine

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:14-16

As followers of Jesus we are to do **good works**, not for personal accolades, but for God's glory. But what constitutes good works? Here are a few passages from the New Testament that shed some light on the subject.

*“But love your enemies, and **do good**, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is **kind** to ungrateful and evil men.”*

Luke 6:35

*Instruct them [who are rich] to do good, to be rich in good works, to be **generous and ready to share**.*

1 Timothy 6:18

*And do not neglect doing good and **sharing**, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Hebrews 13:16

CONSIDER THIS

*“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ‘For I was hungry, and **you gave Me something to eat**; I was thirsty, and **you gave Me something to drink**; I was a stranger, and **you invited Me in**; naked, and **you clothed Me**; I was sick, and **you visited Me**; I was in prison, and **you came to Me**.’... The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”*

Matthew 25:36, 40

ADMONITION

Our light is not to be a “spot light” that only illuminates friends, but a “flood light” that shines on everybody. Our good works are not to be done with “strings attached.” We are not to expect something in return.

*“If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?
For even sinners do the same.”*

Luke 6:33

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Galatians 6:10

Let's be busy doing good, not for accolades, but for God's glory.



STOP SIGNS

Two very true statements: (1) Stop signs don't stop cars. (2) God's laws don't stop sin.

Laws are not designed to stop lawlessness. They only specify what is forbidden. It's the driver who either obeys or disobeys stop signs. And it's the individual who obeys or disobeys God's commandments.

The driver must deal with the consequences of disobeying stop signs. And the individual must deal with the eternal consequences of disobeying God's "stop signs."

Ignoring a stop sign may not always result in a serious consequence, but disobeying God's commandments will certainly incur consequences. Sometimes in this life, but definitely in the judgment.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."

John 12:48

LESSON:

Obey stop signs to avoid serious problems.

Obey God's commandments to avoid eternal consequences.

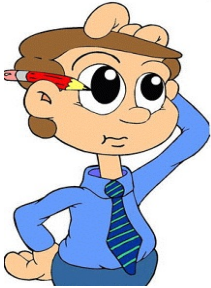


Pearls from Proverbs

FAMILY

Parents and Children

- 1:8-9 *Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, and ornaments about your neck.*
- 10:1 *A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother.*
- 15:20 *A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.*
- 17:6 *Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers.*
- 17:21 *He who begets a fool does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.*
- 19:26 *He who assaults his father and drives his mother away is a shameful and disgraceful son.*
- 23:22-26 *Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you. Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.*
- 28:24 *He who robs his father or his mother, and says, "It is not a transgression," is the companion of a man who destroys.*
- 17:25 *A foolish son is a grief to his father And bitterness to her who bore him*
- 20:20 *He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness.*



Ponder This

Do the Right Thing

KNOWLEDGE

knowing what to do

WISDOM

knowing how to do it

SKILL

being able to do it

VIRTUE

doing it

◆ ◆ ◆
Knowing what to do is of little value,
unless one knows how to do it.

Knowing how to do it is of little value,
unless one is able to do it.

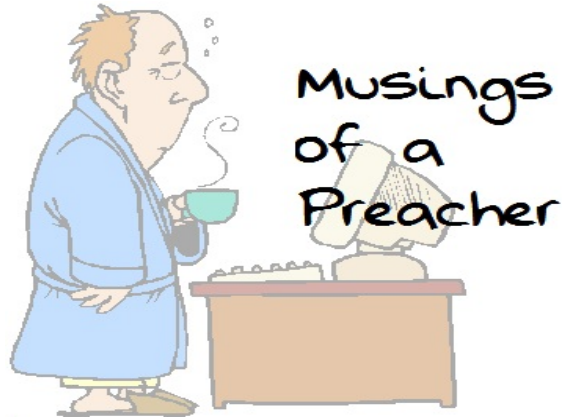
Being able to do it is of little value,
unless one does it.

◆ ◆ ◆
*"If you know these things, you are blessed
if you do them."*

John 13:17

*"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to
do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."*

James 4:17



Do Unto Others

An older couple in a congregation in San Bernardino, California, were the owners of a small mom-and-pop grocery store in the south part of town. In a conversation with the brother, I mentioned I was thinking about patronizing his store.

His reply was, "Oh, that's not necessary." I pointed out that increasing the number of customers should be desirable.

He said that he had found out that when some members of the congregation came to buy groceries they expected special discounts or favors since they were "brethren." "So," he said, "I'd rather not have to deal with that kind of customer."

Anything wrong with this picture? Since when is it acceptable to expect favors from brethren (or anyone)?

*"In everything, therefore, treat people the
same way you want them to treat you, for this
is the Law and the Prophets."*

Matthew 7:12

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Be thoughtful and kind.

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