

REVERB::CRUX::The Good Life::lesson five

FAMILY DEVOTION

Mahatma Gandhi, a worldwide respected political and spiritual leader from India in the 20th century, once said, “If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible; all of India would be Christian today.” He went on to say at another time that “I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

Ouch! Those two statements give us a lot to think about as believers in Christ. We can either get offended by them or humbly evaluate whether we're the kind of Christians that Gandhi spoke of. Are there people in our lives who could say those things about us?

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he covered many aspects about how to live the Christian life. Read Romans 12:9–21 as a family. This passage teaches about daily life in just a few paragraphs. If we want to know what a Christian's life should look like, it's right there. Paul spelled out exactly how Christians are to treat others.

Many things have changed since Paul wrote these verses almost 2,000 years ago. But one thing that has not changed is the fact that relationships and life can be hard. That fact doesn't change that God commands and expects His followers to live Godly lives. God desires our lives be a message that speaks of Him not with words alone but also with the way that we live.

When people look at how we really live our lives and how we treat friends, family, and even enemies, they should get a glimpse of God and who He is. They should be able to see characteristics that are described in this passage: love, truth, kindness, unselfishness, patience, diligence, forgiveness, joy, compassion, goodness and peace.

We have a higher power to whom we answer—God Himself. We will be held accountable to Him for how we live and how we represent Him during our short time on earth. Life is hard, but God has given us His Word and His Holy Spirit to make living like Him possible. So let's yield to Christ daily to prove Gandhi's words and other skeptics like him wrong. Christ and His teachings are good, and His people live by what He said and make every effort to represent Him in all that they do.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. When you read this passage and think about its application to your own life, what thoughts and/or feelings come over you?
2. Read this quote from St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words.” What does this quote mean? Do you agree with what St. Francis said?
3. How are Christians portrayed in secular movies and TV shows? Is it a positive or negative image? Why do you think that is?
4. In recent years there have been several pastors and priests in the news for immorality and/or misconduct. Why do you think stories like this get so much news coverage? Do you think that the world cares more about a Christian man or woman's misconduct than a regular businessperson? What does this say to the world when a Christian falls in such a public way?
5. Think about how you live your life while at home, at work, at school, shopping, running errands, playing sports, etc. If someone who didn't know Christ secretly watched you for a week, would they know by your actions alone that you are a believer in Christ? Why or why not?