



"A" Life? Or "THE" Life? **(Which Christian Life Are You Living?)**

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(Which Christian Life Are You Living?)

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Are You Living “A” Christian Life or “THE” Christian Life?

Introduction

I ask the question: “Are you living ‘A’ Christian life or ‘THE’ Christian Life?” because many Christians I have ministered to don't know the difference. It is crucial to know the difference because which life you are living will determine if you are living what Jesus calls an “abundant life” in John 10:10, or if you are living a Christian life that is not fulfilling, not meeting your needs, and most importantly, not transforming your life.

Therefore, we are going to look at the differences and the consequences of living “A” life versus “THE” Life. Below is a short summary of the differences between “A” Christian life and “THE” Christian Life.

“A” Christian Life

Using your own intellect and ability, with God's help, to live the Christian life

The Christian life is a set of rules to follow or “to do” lists to complete

Living and working for God to get your needs met from Him

Trying to change yourself with God's help

“THE” Christian Life

Living from Christ as the Source to live the Christian Life

The Christian Life is a Person – Christ Himself

Trusting Christ to live His Life in you to meet all your needs

Trusting Christ to transform the way you think, choose, believe, and behave

PART ONE

"A" Christian Life

Definition of "A" Christian Life

Let me begin by defining what I mean by "A" Christian life.

"A" Christian Life:

What you need to DO using your intellect, ability, will power, and self-discipline, with God's help, to try to SUCCESSFULLY live the Christian life.

Another way of saying this is you are attempting to be the source, with God's help, to try to live the Christian life. I was initially taught that "A" Christian life was how the Christian life was to be lived. When you look at the definition of "A" Christian life, would you say this is what you were taught?

Characteristics of "A" Christian Life

Let me give you some of the characteristics of "A" Christian life to give you a better understanding.

"A" Christian life is one in which you are using your own intellect, ability, will power, and self-discipline, while asking for God's help, to:

1. Learn the word of God and do what it says
2. Keep God's rules and commands

3. Change or transform yourself
4. Become more righteous (i.e., sin less)
5. Change your fleshly or sinful behavior to godly behavior
6. Set yourself free from the sin(s) you are in bondage to
7. Imitate Christ to be Christ-like
8. Achieve victory over your flesh and Satan
9. Experience the abundant life

Have you tried to accomplish any of the things listed above? If so, have you been consistently and progressively experiencing success in doing these things in your Christian walk? If not, why do you believe that is the case?

Is it perhaps because you need to try harder to do them, or is it possible that you were never intended to accomplish any of these things using your ability, intellect, will power, and self-discipline? Since I was taught and lived “A” Christian life, I would like to share what the results were after living this kind of Christian life for 30 years.

My 30-Year Journey of Living “A” Christian Life

I became a Christian at age 18, but I did not get serious about my Christian walk until I was 22. At that point, I asked another Christian who was part of a ministry that disciplined college students to “tell me what to **do** to live the Christian life.” The reason I asked is that up to that point everything I did in life was something I learned and then went out and accomplished. I call this the “learn and do” mentality.

Therefore, when it came to living the Christian life, I felt that I just needed someone to tell me what to do; I would learn how to do it; and then I would do it. Doesn’t this

sound logical to you?

Guess what I was told to do? Everything listed on the previous page. I was told that if I could accomplish these things with God's help, then I would be a "successful" Christian and I would experience the abundant life. So I started down the list trying to accomplish everything on it.

I call this my thirty years of "trying" because I failed at consistently accomplishing anything on that list. However, being a strong-willed Christian, I kept trying for the next 30 years. During that time I asked God many times to help but I never really felt He was helping.

By the time I was 18, I had great internal struggles with inadequacy, fear, anger, rejection, and unworthiness. In addition, I was physically, verbally, and emotionally abused by my father which created great internal woundedness. As I read God's promises of victory, freedom, healing of woundedness, and transformation, I wanted to experience those promises in my life. I thought that if I could successfully complete the list then I would experience these promises.

The problem is that the more I tried, the more exhausted I became. Not only that, but all my trying never resulted in the freedom, victory, healing, and transformation that God promises. As hard as I tried, I was never able to set myself free from the feelings and beliefs of fear, inadequacy, rejection, and unworthiness. In fact, all of these feelings got worse.

Due to the woundedness from my dad, I harbored anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness towards him. I knew the truth was that I was supposed to forgive him but I couldn't do it. In fact, my feelings toward my dad became worse. I

also struggled over those years with fleshly behaviors such as anger, being controlling, being critical, and being judgmental.

In addition, I became very self-righteous because I had accumulated a lot of Bible knowledge and people around me needed to know how much I understood about the Bible. At one point, my sister said that I was the most self-righteous person she ever knew. The sad part is that she was right.

The last ten years of my 30-year journey of living “A” life, I got married. I mistakenly thought that marriage would solve many of my problems. It only created more. When my wife would not meet my needs and expectations, my anger and controlling would get out of control. We would go to Christian marriage conferences that told us what we had to do to have a Christ-centered marriage but none of the marriage “to do” lists made any difference. As a result, after ten years my wife and I started emotionally separating.

As a Christian, one of my desires was to be a godly business owner. I failed at this as well because I felt so inadequate. As a result, I believed it was up to my employees to always perform well enough to make me look good. If I thought they were failing me in any way, they would get the full force of my anger.

During this time, I was faithfully going to church, reading my Bible, praying, and doing what I was told to do to be a successful Christian. However, the more I tried living “A” Christian life, the more I failed. You can imagine that failing year after year only created a greater frustration with my Christian Walk because nothing seemed to change, and my fleshly attitudes only became worse.

On top of the fact that I was not experiencing any change, I started condemning myself when I failed to do what the Bible told me to do. I kept thinking to myself that I must be doing something wrong or I must not be trying hard enough. In addition, I felt that God had let me down because after all of my hard work for Him, He was not coming through with the victory and freedom He promises.

Truth be told, towards the end of my thirty-year journey, I began giving up on living “A” Christian life. I finally concluded that abundant life must come after death because I couldn’t attain it now no matter how hard I tried. Instead of getting closer to the abundant life after all those years, I was becoming depressed and at one point I had thoughts of suicide.

Why weren’t all of my efforts being rewarded by God? What was I doing wrong? Was there some key truth that I was missing in my understanding of the Christian life? Now that you have heard my story about living “A” Christian life, let me ask you a question.

Where Are You Today In Your Christian Walk?

I want to share with you the results of some recent surveys. The following are three separate surveys by three different groups. Here is what they revealed:

“52% of Christians think there is more to the Christian life than what they have experienced.” - Barna Group

“Only 13% of Christians say they are living a victorious Christian life.” - Gallup Survey

“89% of Christians feel there is a disconnect between what God promises versus what they are experiencing.” - Reveal Research

When you read the results of these surveys, can you identify where you might fit into those statistics? Are you part of the 52% who think there is more to the Christian life than what you have experienced? Or maybe you are part of the 87% that are not living a victorious Christian life? Perhaps you are part of the 89% who feel there is a disconnect between what God promises versus your experience? If you can identify with any of these groups, why do you think that is the case?

Let me ask you a few more questions:

- Are you struggling with experiencing consistent victory in your Christian walk?
- Is there some sin pattern(s) that you cannot set yourself free from?
- Is there some sinful behavior(s) or attitude(s) that you want changed, but they never seem to change no matter how hard you try?
- Are you experiencing some past woundedness that you have not been healed from no matter what you have tried?
- Do you believe that there is something missing or something more that you want out of your Christian life?

If you answered “Yes” to one or more of these questions, it is possible that you are, like I was, living “A” Christian life.

Is It Possible That Living “A” Christian Life Is Like Living In A Squirrel Cage?

You may have heard “insanity” defined as “doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result each time.” I wonder how this might apply to living “A” Christian life.

You see, I was living what I call a “spiritually insane” life because I was trying to do the same things I was told to do to live the Christian life over and over again for thirty years, hoping to achieve an abundant life.

However, nothing I tried ever produced a victorious life or a transformed life. As I said previously, nothing changed and things actually got worse. Doesn’t that sound a little like insanity to you?

Is it possible that TRYING to do the same things over and over again in your Christian walk and FAILING, can lead to SPIRITUAL insanity?

Now that you know the characteristics of “A” Christian life and how living “A” Christian life resulted in failure for me, let’s look at the truth concerning living “A” Christian life.

What Is The Truth About Living “A” Christian Life?

Here is the truth about living “A” Christian life:

Living “A” Christian life will NEVER produce “THE” Christian Life that God promises, i.e., a life of victory, freedom, and transformation.

In fact, if you continue to live “A” Christian life, it will result in:

- More frustration
- More failure
- More defeat
- More bondage
- More disillusionment
- More inner turmoil
- More of the same or worse (i.e., no change or transformation)

Are you living “A” Christian life? Can you identify in any way with my story? If so, I want you to ask yourself this question:

Is this the life God INTENDED for me to live, or is there ANOTHER life I am to experience?

You see, friend, God never intended for us to live “A” Christian life because His plan and design for us is for us to live “THE” Christian Life. So, let’s take a look at the meaning of “THE” Christian Life.

PART TWO

"THE" Christian Life

After 30 Years I Discovered "THE" Christian Life

Little did I know that during those thirty years God was in the process of bringing me to the end of my trying to live the Christian life by my own efforts. On Sunday, October 4, 1998, I was sitting in my car depressed, wondering why I needed to go to church to hear one more message that would make no difference in my life.

While sitting there, a question came rolling across my mind: **"Are you done trying, in your own strength and ability, to make the Christian life work?"** I knew that thought did not come from me so it must have come from the Holy Spirit. My answer was: "Yes, I am done trying to live the Christian life. In fact, I am totally exhausted trying to live it in my own strength." This was good news because I finally came to the place of "I can't." These were some of my "I can't's":

- I can't set myself free.
- I can't attain victory over my sinful behaviors.
- I can't heal myself of my woundedness.
- I can't transform my fleshly behaviors into Christ-like behaviors.
- I can't produce the joy, fulfillment, and peace that I want out of the Christian life.

As I said earlier, I also came to the conclusion that God was not going to help me accomplish any of these things because of the many times I had asked Him to help me and He never did help. After I answered the Holy Spirit's

question, He brought these thoughts to my mind: “I (God) have been waiting for 30 years for you to come to this place of ‘I can’t.’ Today, I am going to speak to you through the speaker at your church and I am going to start you on a new Christian journey.”

Needless to say, I was getting a little excited. Our church had invited a man by the name of Ian Thomas to teach a four-day conference starting that morning. Ian Thomas was the director of a world-wide ministry called Torchbearers. At that time, I had no idea who he was or what his ministry was about. So I went into church and when he got up to speak, these were his first words:

“God NEVER intended for you to live THE LIFE that ONLY Christ can live in and through you.”

What struck me were two things he said that I had never heard before. The first was that he used the words “THE Life.” The second was that whatever THE Life was, I can’t live it. Only Christ can.

In addition to these powerful words, I saw in this man what the scripture calls “rivers of living water” (John 7:38). I say that because I could tell that he was experiencing a joy and peace that I had wanted to experience for many years. This day marked the most pivotal day of my Christian life (other than the day I was saved) because this was the day I began a new journey called THE Christian Life that would radically transform my life.

What Jesus Says Is “THE” Christian Life

Jesus says:

*“... **I AM** the way, the truth, and **THE LIFE**” John 14:6*

*“... **I AM** the resurrection and **THE LIFE**.” John 11:25*

What is Jesus saying in these two passages? It is clear that Jesus is saying that He Himself is **THE** Life. What does He mean when He says that He is **THE** Life? For many years, I read these verses and concluded that they only meant that He was the source for my **eternal** life when I trusted in Him for salvation. However, what Jesus is clearly telling us in these two passages is this:

“THE” Christian Life is a PERSON.

It is Christ HIMSELF!

Think about the above statement for a moment. If Christ Himself is THE Christian Life, then THE Christian Life is not about trying to live the Christian life through self-effort with God’s help. Rather, THE Christian Life is a Person. Have you heard this before? To further confirm this truth let’s look at what Paul had to say.

What Paul Said About Living “THE” Christian Life

Paul took the truth of Christ as “THE” Life to a more personal level when he said in Colossians 3:4:

*“... Christ who is **YOUR** life”*

What is Paul saying in this verse? He is saying that the life of Christ is more than the eternal life that He gave you at salvation. He is saying that Christ is **your** life today, at this very moment. At this point you might be scratching your head and asking these questions: "What is Paul talking about? What does it mean that Christ is my life? Is the life that Paul is referring to 'THE' Christian Life?" I believe that the answer to these questions is found in Philippians 1:21 when Paul says:

"For me, to live IS CHRIST...."

Paul is saying that life for him is Christ being his life. Think about this for a moment. If "THE" Christian Life is a Person, does that mean "THE" Christian Life is **not** about completing a checklist, trying to keep a set of rules, trying to keep from sinning, or trying to do the best you can to live for God?

You see Jesus and Paul are saying the same thing that Ian Thomas said that day to me: God intended for you to live THE Christian Life, not "A" Christian life. Think about the following statement:

All that we can do in our own strength and ability is live "A" FORM of the Christian life. ONLY Christ can live "THE" Life in and through us.

Question: If you have been living "A" form of the Christian life, how is it working for you personally, in your marriage, as a parent, or at your job?

What Does It Mean For Christ To Be YOUR Life?

To answer this question let's look at 1 Corinthians 1:30:

***“He is the SOURCE of your life in Christ Jesus,”** (RSV)*

God gives us the answer in the first part of the verse when He says that He is the SOURCE of your life in Christ. The word “source” in this context means “a person from whom something originates.” In this verse, that person is Jesus who is the originator of THE Life.

Look at two other verses that reveal that God is your Source for living the Christian life:

“In Him we live and move and have our being.”
Acts 17:28

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things....”
Romans 11:36

These are just two of many verses in the Bible that reveal to us that Christ is to be our Source for living THE Christian Life. You may be wondering what it means practically that Christ is your Source. Let's look at two key words concerning Christ being the source: SUPPLY and PRODUCE.

Christ Being Your Source Means That He Is Your SUPPLY

***“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has THE LIFE....”** 1 John 5:12a*

***“For to live to me is Christ.”** Philippians 1:21*

1 John 5:12 above tells us that if you have trusted Christ for your salvation, then you have His (THE) Life in you. Paul says that to live is Christ. What do these two verses mean?

They mean that Christ as THE Life is your:

Unconditional love	Victory	Worth
Acceptance	Faith	Freedom
Patience	Strength	Peace
Forgiveness	Understanding	Security
Fearlessness	Wisdom	Discernment
Adequacy	Humility	Christ-confidence
Boldness	Righteousness	Selflessness
Rest	Compassion	Courage
Hope	Gentleness	Control
Faithfulness	Power	Joy

[**Note:** While we know we can ascribe human meanings to these words, what we are talking about above are supernatural, Christ-produced characteristics that can only be supplied by Christ.]

A key truth to understand at this point is that since you are complete in Christ and Christ is in you, then you have available to you all the above characteristics of Christ's life. Look at the following verse to confirm this truth:

*"For in Him (Christ) all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and **in Him you have been made complete**, and He is the head over all rule and authority." Colossians 2:9, 10*

Think of it. All of Christ's love, strength, peace, forgiveness, etc., is in you and available to you right now!

Question: Since you contain all of Christ's Life in you, do you need to look anywhere outside of His Life to find unconditional love, acceptance, value/worth, etc.?

Let's tie this truth to Philippians 4:19 which says this:

*"My God shall **SUPPLY all your needs ...**
IN CHRIST Jesus."*

Think about this verse for a moment. Paul is telling us that Christ Himself is our need-meter because He IS everything we need. He IS our love, He IS our strength, He IS our hope, etc. Whatever your need is, God will supply that need in Christ. Let me give you some examples:

- Is your need unconditional love? Christ, who IS unconditional love, will meet that need in you.
- Is your need a strength greater than your own? Christ, who IS strength, will BE your strength.
- Is your need hope? Christ, who IS hope, will supply His hope in you. Look at the following verse to confirm this truth:

*"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of
Christ Jesus, who is our hope." 1 Timothy 1:1*

Therefore, let's sum it up this way:

Christ as THE Life means that Christ is your SUPPLY to provide you HIS peace, HIS acceptance, HIS joy, etc.

Using the list on the previous page, note some things that you may need based on the current struggles you may be facing.

Christ As Your Source Means That He Is The PRODUCER

*“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you **will perfect (accomplish)** it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6 (parentheses mine)*

*“But He answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I **Myself am working.**’” John 5:17*

Another definition for the word “source” is “the one who produces.” What Philippians 1:6 and John 5:17 above are saying is that Christ is the producer. What does it mean that Christ is the producer?

It means that Christ produces His Life in you by making His Life an EXPERIENTIAL reality in your life.

Let me give you some examples of what it means for Christ to be the Producer:

VICTORY – Christ will produce in you experiential victory over the power of sin, the flesh, the world, and the power of Satan.

“... but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57

FREEDOM – Christ will set you free from your false beliefs, your defeating sin patterns, and your ongoing inner struggles.

*“So Christ has really set us **free**. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.”
Galatians 5:1*

HEALING – Christ will produce healing of your past and present woundedness.

*“He **heals** the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”
Psalm 147:3*

INTIMACY – Christ will produce in you a desire for personal, intimate relationship with Himself.

*“His **unchanging plan** has always been to adopt us into His own family by **bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ**.
And this gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5*

In addition to these examples of Christ being the Producer, there is one more key area in the Christian life that only Christ can produce.

Transformation Into Christ-Likeness

One of the greatest promises in the Bible is to be transformed into Christ-likeness. Let’s look at two verses that confirm to us that God intends for our lives to be transformed.

*“For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.” Romans 8:29*

*“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory,
are being transformed into His likeness with
ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord,
who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

What does it mean for us to be conformed to the image of Christ and be transformed into His likeness?

***To be conformed to the IMAGE of Christ or to be
TRANSFORMED into the LIKENESS of Christ means
that you will be transformed to THINK, BELIEVE,
CHOOSE, and BEHAVE like Christ.***

Think about it for a moment. What would be different about your life if God transformed you so that you were thinking, believing, choosing, and behaving like Christ? How would it change how you see yourself, how you relate to others, or how you would deal with your circumstances?

My experience has been that many Christians I have talked to are not experiencing ongoing transformation into Christ-likeness. I fully understand because for the first thirty years of my life, I was not experiencing any real transformation either. The key is that without knowing, believing, and living from the truth of what it means to live THE Christian Life, there will be no major transformation.

Can You Be The Source To Produce THE Life?

I hope by this point that you have concluded that you can’t be the source to produce THE Life. However, if you need further proof, look at the last part of John 15:5:

*“... apart from Me you can do **NOTHING.**” John 15:5b*

This means that apart from Christ being the Source, you cannot produce any truth or any promise in God’s word. Therefore, try as hard and as long as you would like, but you will never be able to produce THE Christian Life.

This Is Why God Is NOT Going To Help You Live THE Christian Life

I hear many Christians say, as I did, “God is going to help me.” What they are, in reality, saying is: “**God is going to help me be the source to solve my problems, change myself, etc.**” Another way of saying this is: “God will help me help myself.” This is a false teaching because God never intended for man to be the source for living life or being transformed.

Think about this question: “If God is the Source, then why would He help you be the source?” You see, God has it rigged! If He is not your Source for living the Christian life, then you are the source with the result that there will be more defeat, more bondage, and no transformation. God’s design only works one way, and that is with Him being your Source. Look at Psalm 37:5 to bear this out:

*“Commit your way to the LORD, trust also
in Him, and **He will do it.**” Psalm 37:5*

What this verse does not say is that God is going to help you do it. Rather, He is your Source and He will do it. What does “it” mean? “It” means everything God promises to do.

Either you are going to be the source or God is going to be the Source but He is NOT going to HELP you be the source.

Since Only Christ Can Live THE Life Then What Should We Do?

Think about this question: How many people have led a perfect Christian life? The answer: only One, Jesus. This truth may be as startling to you as it was to me when I first heard it. However, isn't it true? No one other than Jesus has lived a perfect Christian life.

Therefore, since Christ is in you and He is the only One who has perfectly lived The Life, then what should we do according to the first part of Galatians 2:20?

"I am crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives IN me...."

Think about what Paul is saying in this verse. When Paul says, "I no longer live," he is, in effect, saying that he CANNOT be the source for living the Christian life. This is amazing considering all of Paul's credentials, intellect, and capability. He clearly acknowledges that none of those things qualify him to be the source.

Therefore, since he admits that he cannot live the Christian life, he says, "Christ lives in me." Paul recognizes his absolute need to depend on Christ to live THE Christian Life in him.

So, what is our part in learning to live THE Life?

***Our part is to **DEPEND** on Christ to **LIVE**
and **PRODUCE** His Life in us.***

Let me give you an example to explain. If you needed surgery, why would you go to a surgeon? For two reasons. First, you can't accomplish the surgery on yourself. Second, you have to totally depend on the surgeon to do the surgery because he is trained to do it and you aren't able to do it. It is the same with letting Christ live in you.

***You must live in **MOMENT-by-MOMENT** dependence
for Christ to live and produce His Life in you.***

Depending on Christ to live His Life in you may be a new concept for you. It was a radical concept for me, especially after trying (and failing) for thirty years to live the Christian life on my own.

However, doesn't it make sense to depend on Christ to do what only He can do, and you can't? I trust that you see that. Now that we know what it means that Christ is THE Life, let's look at the results of Christ living in you.

What Is The Result of Christ Living His Life In You?

We see the result in that second part of John 10:10:

*"... I have come that they might have life
and have it **abundantly**."*

What do you think Jesus means by "abundant" life? I don't believe that He means an external abundance (wealth and prosperity) because that can be easily taken

away. Is it possible that the abundance that Jesus is talking about is an internal abundance?

Let me use the promises we talked about to give a better understanding of the meaning of abundant life. I will do this in the form of a question.

If you were:

- living in **victory** over sin, the flesh, the world, and Satan,
- experiencing **freedom** from your defeating sin patterns,
- being **healed** of your past or present woundedness,
- having your **needs met**,
- being **transformed** to think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ, and
- experiencing a personal, **intimate relationship** with God,

would you consider that abundant living?

I believe that you would, as I would, consider this abundant living. In light of this, think about this statement.

***If Christ is your life, and His Life is ABUNDANT,
then abundant living is allowing Christ to live in
you so that you will experience His promises of
FREEDOM, VICTORY, HEALING,
TRANSFORMATION, and INTIMACY.***

Question: If someone were to ask you today if you are living an abundant life, what would your answer be?

How Depending On Christ To Live His Life In Me Is Transforming My Life

Since I heard the truth about Christ being THE Life on October 4, 1998, I began a new journey of depending on Christ to live THE Life in me. As a result, God began a transforming work in my life.

Through trusting Christ to live in me, I am being set free from my sin strongholds of inadequacy, fear, anger, rejection, and unworthiness. Christ has replaced these strongholds with His adequacy, His courage, His love, His acceptance, and His worth.

Remember how I shared with you earlier about my hardened heart towards my dad because of all of his abuse? Over time, the Lord transformed me in such a way that I was able to forgive my dad for his abuse and rejection and, afterwards, the Lord was able to heal my wounded feelings of hatred, bitterness, and unforgiveness towards him that I had struggled with for over 48 years.

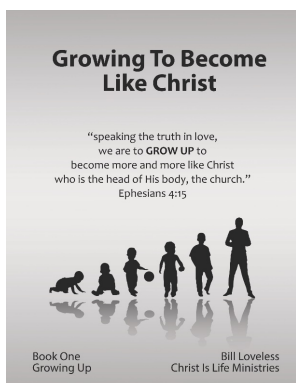
In addition, the Lord is transforming our marriage as my wife and I increasingly depend on Christ to produce a

Christ-centered marriage. He continues to set us free from the fleshly behaviors that created so much conflict earlier in our marriage. That is not to say that our marriage is conflict-free, but as we grow into Christ-likeness any remaining conflict continues to decrease while our intimacy, harmony, and oneness increases.

Conclusion

I wanted to conclude by saying that the Lord so transformed my life that I left my business to go into full-time ministry to share these transforming truths with Christians who are either dissatisfied with their Christian walk or are wanting more from it. In 15 years of ministry, I have witnessed God transform the lives of hundreds of individuals and married couples. I am fully convinced that living THE Christian Life is the only way to a fulfilling, transforming, and abundant life.

Where Do I Go From Here?



The curriculum *Growing To Become Like Christ* is an in-depth curriculum that will give you a deeper understanding of the truths in this booklet. This is Book One of the four-part series Growing Up - Growing Out - Growing Deep. It is designed for connect groups, one-on-one discipleship, and personal use.

I hope you will take advantage of this study and seek the Lord for a deeper understanding of what it means to grow spiritually. I know that as you appropriate these truths, your life will be radically transformed.

Blessings in Christ,

Bill Loveless

CILM DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS

CILM has this series and many other studies, booklets and videos at our website listed below. To purchase ready-to-use copies from **Amazon or download for free** and do your own printing, copying and binding, please go to the **Discipleship** tab of our website. We hope you will take advantage of these materials.

Christ Is Life Ministries (CILM)
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Are You Living “A” Life or “THE” Life?

There are two ways to live the Christian life: “A” Christian life or “THE” Christian life. Many Christians—like I did for 30 years—are living a Christian life that is not fulfilling, victorious, or transforming. Since God promises abundant life (John 10:10), then why are so many Christians unable to describe their Christian life as abundant?

How would you describe your Christian life?

- Are you experiencing ongoing victory over your flesh, Satan, and the world?
- Are you being set free from your sin patterns that have become strongholds in your life?
- Are you experiencing God’s promise of healing if you have been wounded in the past by parents, siblings, friends, or spouse?
- God promises in 2 Corinthians 3:18 that you will be transformed to think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ. Are you experiencing that kind of transformation?

If your answer is “no” to one or more of these questions, it is likely that you have been living “A” Christian life rather than “THE” Christian life. If so, I encourage you to read this booklet to understand and begin to experience THE Life that God promises.



Bill Loveless is the founder of Christ Is Life Ministries (CILM), a non-profit, non-denominational discipleship ministry. CILM's focus is teaching Christians that Christ is their only source for living the Christian life, what it looks like to be transformed into Christ-likeness, and how to be drawn into a deep relationship with Him. Bill finished his earthly journey in 2024 and is now with the Lord he loves.

For further information and to see other discipleship materials being offered, please go to our website: www.christislifeministries.com

