

"A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD"

Blessings & Responsibilities of Being a Christian

Sermon/Study by Terry Lortz

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INTRODUCTION

1. Every person has some big events in life (for example: birth, graduations, marriage, death).
2. But the most important event for anyone is becoming a Christian!
 - a. Why? Because it affects both you and others for ETERNITY.
 - b. Unfortunately, many people become Christians and do not really appreciate it until late in life, if ever.
 - c. But our service for Christ would be more productive and infinitely more enjoyable if we better grasp the true significance of being Christians, and as such, the children of God.

Opening Prayer

Asking for God's blessing and inspiration on this topic...

Specific Purpose Statement

To help encourage us in fulfilling this goal of a more personal relationship and walk with God, I will quickly review **4 specific blessings and responsibilities we have as Christians seeking to be more fruitful in our service as disciples of Jesus Christ**. They are too important to just gloss over in the few minutes we have this morning so I am providing you a copy of my outline notes and scriptures for you to more appropriately study and meditate on during your personal study time back in your homes.

Body

I. GOD AS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER - [1John 3:1](#)

A. CONSIDER THE BLESSING OF HAVING GOD AS OUR FATHER...

1. He is the source of every good and perfect gift from above
- [James 1:17](#); [Mat. 7:11](#)
2. He provides us comfort in all our afflictions – [2Cor. 1:3-4](#)
3. When needed, in love and grace He chastises us – [Heb. 12:5-11](#)
4. He has promised never to forsake us – [Heb. 13:5-6](#)

B. YET, WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HAVING GOD AS OUR FATHER...

1. We must SUBMIT to God - [James 4:7](#)
 - a. By submitting to His Word
 - b. By submitting to His providential workings in our lives
- [1Peter 5:6-11](#)
2. We must also DRAW NEAR to God - [James 4:8](#)
 - a. Just as an earthly father delights when his children want to draw near to him, so does God - [Mat. 23:37](#)
 - b. We draw nearer to God by "cleansing our hands" and "purifying our hearts" - [James 4:8](#)
 - 1) That is, by obtaining forgiveness through grace and then strengthening our resolve to serve Him
 - 2) For the Christian, this involves Repentance, Confession of our sinfulness, and Prayer - [Acts 8:22](#); [1John 1:9](#)

II. JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND HIGH PRIEST – [1Cor. 8:6](#); [Heb. 4:14](#)

A. THINK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT THIS BLESSING...

1. He who is our "Lord" is also He who rules over the kings of the earth – [Rev. 1:5-6](#)
 - a. All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him
- [Mat. 28:18](#)
 - b. All have been made subject to Him – [1Pet. 3:22](#)
 - c. Yet, He calls us His "brethren"! - [Heb. 2:11-12](#)
2. As "High Priest", He intercedes on our behalf – [Rom. 8:34](#)
 - a. A High Priest who understands our every feeling
- [Heb. 2:17-18](#)
 - b. A High Priest who "ever lives" to make intercession for us – [Heb. 7:24-25](#)

B. WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF HAVING JESUS AS LORD AND HIGH PRIEST?

1. If He is truly our Lord, we must do what He says - [Luke 6:46](#)
 - a. We must be careful to observe what He taught – [Mat. 28:18-20](#)
 - b. We must keep His commands - [John 15:10, 14](#)
2. We must also utilize His role as our High Priest – [Heb. 4:14-16](#)
 - a. In other words, be quick to obtain mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.
 - b. Again, for the Christian this involves heartfelt Prayer.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN US – [1Cor. 3:16](#)

A. WONDERFUL BLESSINGS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INDWELLING...

1. He gives us strength to put to death the fleshly deeds of the body – [Rom. 8:11-13](#); [Eph. 3:16, 20](#)
2. He also helps in our weakness when it comes to praying as we ought, by acting as an intercessor for us – [Rom. 8:26-27](#)

B. WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES DO WE HAVE IN VIEW OF THE SPIRIT'S INDWELLING?

1. To keep the temple of God, the church, HOLY – [1Cor. 3:16-17](#)

2. We are to GLORIFY God even with our bodies – [1Cor. 6:18-20](#)
3. We are to WALK in the Spirit, being so LED by the Spirit as to produce the FRUIT of the Spirit – [Gal. 5:16-18, 22-25](#)
 - a. This we do by setting our minds on the THINGS of the Spirit - [Rom. 8:5-6](#)
 - b. Which involves the WORD of God, which is the SWORD of the Spirit – [Eph. 6:17](#)

IV. THE CHURCH AS OUR FAMILY – 1Tim. 3:15

A. THE BLESSING OF HAVING THE CHURCH AS OUR FAMILY...

1. The members become like fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters – [1Tim. 5:1-2](#)
2. They can even replace physical relationships that we may lose when we become Christians - [Mark 10:28-30](#); [Mat. 12:46-50](#)

B. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF HAVING THE CHURCH AS OUR FAMILY...

1. We are to "edify one another" – [Heb. 10:24-25](#)
 - a. This necessitates assembling together frequently [Heb. 10:24-25](#) *"and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; 25 - not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh."*
 - b. This requires each one doing their share – [Eph. 4:15-16](#)
2. We are to "bear (and share) one another's burdens" – [Gal. 6:1-2](#)

6:1- *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

- a. For such is the "law" of Christ
- b. This requires that we know each other well, and can be depended upon to provide support for one another.

CONCLUSION

1. There are certainly many more blessings and responsibilities that we have as Christians.
2. But I hope that these 4 important examples from God's Word remind us...
 - a. How blessed we are as Christians under Grace.
 - b. How important it is that we still fulfill our personal responsibilities as representatives of Jesus Christ. [Heb. 3:12-14](#)

It is my hope that you will review these notes and scriptures for encouragement and better understanding of God's will for our lives as we seek to have Him live more fully in us and through us.