



A. Living the Christian LIFE each day is as much a part of God's authority as...

1. the one church is,
2. as baptism is,
3. as singing with our voices rather than using musical instruments,
4. and as partaking the Lord's Supper each Sunday is.

B. It seems that so many Christians love pounding those fundamentals, but do not give the same weight to the fundamentals of Christian living Everyday.

C. What I want to discuss with you tonight living the Christian Life Everyday.

1. In the book of James we have a manual on living the Christian Life...God's Way!
2. One word that comes to mind when it comes to living the Christian Life is...Maturity.
3. James uses this word five times in five chapters.
4. James is a manual on how to live the Christian Life in a mature manner.

D. First of all we need to establish the AUTHORITY!

1. GODS AUTHORITY

Romans 13:1 -Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Ephesians 1:21 - far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

2. THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD

2 Timothy 3:16,17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Tonight we will discuss 5 things we must do in Everyday Living...according to God.

Class **1. WE MUST BE POSITIVE UNDER PRESSURE**

James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect (One translation-mature) and complete, lacking nothing."

A. How do you handle trials?

1. The first test of maturity is how do you react to problems?
2. Do they blow you away? Do you get nervous, uptight, negative?
3. Do you grumble and gripe? How do you handle problems?

B. Christianity is a life.

1. It's not a religion, it's a life.
2. Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life."
3. Life means problems.
4. And part of life means solving problems and facing them with the right attitude.

C. What is your natural attitude?

1. When things don't go right and you're irritated, are you negative or are you positive?
2. Is your life filled with gratitude or grumbling?
3. Are you affirmative or are you angry most of the time?

Vs. 12 "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

4. You can be great in the knowledge of the Bible and be cantankerous as all get out! 5. Are you positive under pressure?

Class **2. WE MUST BE SENSITIVE TO PEOPLE**

James 2:8 - "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well."

A. A mature person is sensitive to people.

1. He doesn't just see his own needs, he sees other people's needs.
2. He understands their hurts.
3. Children, when they're immature, only see themselves, "I want that, I want this, I don't care about anybody else."
4. God says that love, being interested in others, is a mark of maturity.
5. James gets very specific.

Look at 2:1-6 -"My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?"

B. Don't show favoritism,

1. don't be a snob, don't look down on people, don't judge by appearance,
2. don't insult people, don't exploit people.
3. The second test of maturity is love: how do you treat other people?

Class **3. WE MUST MASTER OUR MOUTH** –

James 3:2-5 (ESV)

2 For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

ILL. - The first thing a doctor will say when you go for a check up is "Stick out your tongue." He uses your tongue to check your health. God does that spiritually, too.

ILL. - In World War II there was a saying, "Loose lips, sink ships." Loose lips destroy lives.

They hurt! Definition of gossip: hearing something you like about somebody you don't.

A. Self control comes from tongue control.

1. We get ourselves into so much trouble with what we say.

2. James 3 gives several illustrations:

a. He says our tongue is like a rudder, - Changes direction

b. a bit in a horse's mouth, - Changes direction

c. a spark, a snake, a spring.

d. Your tongue, which, by size is very insignificant, controls your life.

3. What you say directs your life, what you say can destroy your life.

a. It can delight people's lives,

b. it can discourage people's lives.

4. Your tongue is a powerful force for good or for evil.

5. Is your tongue going to send you to Heaven or hell?

a. Do you gage your tongue?

b. Do you say more that builds up or tears down?

c. Do you ever use your tongue to encourage? (it's a sin if you don't).

6. Have you ever heard anyone say, "I just say what's on my mind." They're kind of proud of it. Being frank, up front, they say what's on their mind. Maybe there's not a whole lot on their mind. Maybe what's on their mind shouldn't be said. That's not frankness, that's immaturity. A lot of people just need a large dose of tactfulness.

Ephesians 4:29 - "Do not let any negative talk come out of your mouth but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs..."

James 1:26 - "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless

"Speak the truth in love" means the right attitude, the right timing, the right place, the right location, the right motive. Not just the right thing! The Bible is very practical. It doesn't matter how much you know about the Bible, if your attitude isn't like Christ's you're missing the point.

Class **IV. WE MUST BE A PEACEMAKER NOT A TROUBLEMAKER**

James 4:1 - "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"

A. He's talking about conflict.

1. Am I a peacemaker? Am I a troublemaker?
2. Do I like to argue? Am I a contentious person? Do I get my feelings hurt?
3. Do I get defensive easily? Do I hurt other people's feelings?
4. Am I a peacemaker? Or am I a troublemaker?

B. The mark of a mature person is the lack of conflict in his own life.

1. Paul told the Corinthian church, You guys are a bunch of babies.
2. They argued about everything.
 - a. They argued about the Lord's supper, names, leadership, everything.
 - b. That's a mark of immaturity.

C. Why is there so much conflict in the world?

1. Why is there conflict between me and another Christian?
2. Why is there conflict between me and God?
3. Why is there conflict?

D. James says there are two reasons for conflict.

James 4:3 - "When you ask you do not receive. But you ask with the wrong motives that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

1. The first cause of conflict is selfishness.
 - a. When I want my way at any cost then I'm going to have conflict with somebody.
 - b. The issue is pride.
 - c. Pride guarantees conflict at work, church, home, school, wherever.

d. Selfishness -- we want things for ourselves.

James 4:11-12 "Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it... There is only one lawgiver and judge, one who is able to save and destroy. But you, who are you to judge your neighbor?"

2. The other source of conflict is judge mentalism.

a. God says be careful when you put on the judges robe.

b. Matt 7, you are going to be judged the same way you judge.

c. When we judge you're asking for a fight.

d. You're always finding fault, always stirring up strife, always spreading rumors.

Why? Why should I not judge?

1. I'm not God. When you judge somebody it's playing God. There is only one judge, only one lawgiver -- God.

2. Only God has all the facts, you don't and neither do I. When I judge you, I probably don't have all the facts.

3. I don't know the motives. And you don't either. You can't tell what's in somebody's heart. You don't know. Only God does.

Class **V. WE MUST BE PATIENT AND PRAYERFUL** - 5:7,11

"Be patient then, brothers, until the Lord's coming... As you know, we consider blessed those who persevere." v. 16 "The prayer of a righteous man avails much."

A. God says the mark of a mature person is, he is patient and prayerful.

1. Those are the two key words in chapter five.
2. "Patient" is used four times. "Prayer" is used seven times.

5:7 - "Be patient then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, how patient he is for the fall and spring rain. You too be patient. Stand firm because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged."

3. If anybody has to have patience it's a farmer.
 - a. He does a lot of waiting.
 - b. He plants a seed, waits, prays, hopes, expects ... he waits.
 - c. There are no overnight crops.
4. Just like a farmer has to wait, sometimes we have to wait.
5. We have to wait on God in answer to prayer.
6. Patience is a mark of maturity.
7. The only way you learn patience is by waiting.

5:16 - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crop."

If anybody was patient it was Elijah. Elijah was patient and prayerful.