



Many people see Christianity as a bunch of rules and guidelines to follow; But Christianity isn't a religion that forces rules and laws on its followers.

- ***God does not want robots who are forced to meet His “Dos and Don'ts.” He wants His followers to choose to obey (a decision we make), not His.***
- ***We are to be a credit to God's “Dos and Don'ts...an example for others to follow.***
- ***It is not for our glory, but for God's glory and His alone.***

The Bible describes how we can honor God by choosing to live or behave in certain ways.

Before Jesus came, the only way God's chosen people (the Israelites) could be “right” with God is through the sacrifice of an animal.

- ***The animal's blood would cover the people's sin so that God could accept them.***
- ***God presented His people with some very specific laws to follow.***
- ***Due to the sinful nature of man, the Covenant people (Israelites) did not follow God's law and would fail to follow the “dos and don'ts” found in the Old Covenant.***

Romans 8 explains that “what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

In the New Covenant, Jesus came as the perfect, final sacrifice; His holy blood doesn't just cover our sins – it purifies us and makes us holy.

Instead of a list of religious rules, God has given us the Holy Spirit to be our guide as to how to live through a relationship with Jesus.

Christianity is based on knowing God through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Then God's Spirit puts His laws in our minds and hearts so we know how to honor God through our actions.

Titus 2:11-15, “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to

live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

God wants His people to enjoy life by keeping the proper spiritual balance.

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.”

“You only live once, but if you do it right ...Once is enough!”

Here are some specific examples in the bible as to how to live a Christ-like life as we live this life on planet earth :

- **Go to Church Regularly**

*Hebrews 10 gives us some advice, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

Clearly, we need to get together with other Christians so that we can encourage each other and stir each other **to do good things**.

- **Surround Yourself with Other Christians**

The idea that “we become like the people we hang around with” is actually quite true. 1 Corinthians 15:33 puts it like this: **“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’”**

It’s important to surround ourselves with people who will encourage us to honor God with our actions and words.

- **Read the Bible and Pray**

Colossians urges, “[DO] Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.” And 1 Thessalonians says, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Reading the Bible helps us to know who God is and how He operates.

- **Priorities**

As Christians, we acknowledge Jesus as King. Jesus said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

God won’t share first place with another; He wants our devotion and loyalty, just like spouses want in a marriage relationship.

- **Speech**

The Bible has much to say about our words and the power of the tongue. *“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* And *“neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”*

Both verses in Ephesians are clear: How we talk matters to God.

- **Lifestyle**

Lifestyle can encompass many things. Paul gave young Timothy this advice: *“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”*

Paul was encouraging Timothy to avoid controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, and evil suspicions, and to be careful of corrupt people.

Paul also advises believers to *“flee sexual immorality,”* and Ephesians instructs us to be *“filled with the Spirit”* rather than *“drunk with wine.”* Christians have a high standard of morality to aspire to.

- **Pleasing God**

Ephesians encourages us to “be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us.” Most children really want to please their father and mother. When we come to really know God and His character, we want to please Him, too. It’s not about following rules; it’s about relationship and love.

So rather than thinking of Christianity as being a religion of rules of dos and don’ts, think of it as wanting to please our Heavenly Father by doing the things that He wants us to do.

The more we get to know Him, the more He shows us how to live a full and abundant life.

We have to know that any rule, command, or principle of conduct from God to DO or to NOT DO something always has God’s heart in them and are meant for our good. They are always to enhance our relationship with Him and others.

Like the commands in the Garden to Adam and Eve, “Freely eat,” and “Do not eat,” God had Adam and Eve’s best interest in mind. Keep in mind it was Adam and Eve’s failure to keep a “DON’T” command that led to the enslavement of the human race to sin, spiritual death, Satan, and the curse.
--

We can trust the One Who not only loves us more than any human being could but Who is Love (1 John 4:8).