

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 12 THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFESTYLE

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body”

Philippians 3:20,21

1. Our citizenship is in heaven
2. We are changed
3. What would you like to see changed in your life?

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

Acts 2:42-46

1. This is a picture of how the new converts behaved
2. The apostles recognised a need to teach these people
3. The apostles performed signs and wonders
4. Relationships between the new believers developed rapidly
5. The disciples had a lifestyle with happiness at its heart.
6. Would you like to live like this—and who with?

"...praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Acts 2:47

1. Their faith is God-centred
2. The community grew
3. In general the Christian community were well regarded
4. God made sure that the growth took place.
5. Why do you think growth took place?

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34,35

1. Jesus commands the kind of relationships that He wishes to see in the church
2. The aim is that people see we are disciples of Jesus
3. How could we show love to each other?
4. What could you do to show love to your family or your next door neighbour?

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Hebrews 12:2,3

1. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus rather than on ourselves we will not grow weary as Christians
2. How could we do this?

3. Does the pattern of Acts 2:42-46 help you? These suggest the need for worship, celebration and fellowship

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

Matthew 18:15-17

1. Things sometimes do go wrong in Christian relationships
- 2 This shows how to resolve problems when things go wrong
Try to speak to the person directly
3. Try harder if this fails, try and take others with you
4. If that does not work the church should be involved
5. If there still can be no resolution then the person should be treated as a pagan
6. In the context of the gospels the aim is resolution of the problem. Why would someone be treated as a pagan? How did Jesus treat pagans and tax collectors?