



Why live a godly life? What are the benefits of living a godly life? Are our actions any important?

The vertical effects of sin between God and man have been dealt with. The problem still lies between men. Although living in sin is terrible and very dangerous, it doesn't stop God from loving us. God loves us unconditionally. Sin is no longer a barrier between you and God. It has been paid for. It's no longer a barrier. Jesus paid it all and there is none left to pay for.

If God cannot love someone who sins, He has no one to love because we all come short (Romans 3:23). If God cannot hear a prayer of someone with some sort of sin in their life, then God cannot hear any prayer because we all do not measure up in our performance. That said it is not an excuse to live that way. If a person doesn't live a godly life, it is unpersuasive to say that they love God while they live like the devil.

Our actions are important but, they do not purchase or earn us right standing with God. They do not produce salvation nor earn us extra favor and points with God. Our actions are not what please God but Faith (Hebrews 11:6). It is our faith in Jesus that produces righteousness and right standing with God, not our actions. The Lord loves us unconditionally and His blessings and love for us are not proportional to our performance. Thank You, Jesus! Although we receive all God has for us by grace and we are pure and sinless in our born-again Spirit (Ephesians 4:24; 1 John 3:6; 3:9; and Ephesians 1:13), we also have a physical body and a soul that we use to relate to people in this world. The way God sees us in the Spirit is not the way the world does. We do not relate to people spirit to spirit nor do they see our born-again Spirits.

Horizontally, here in this life and the world we live in, our actions are extremely important for relationships and other good things. If we ignore good actions here on earth, we lose our influence and ability to go further. No one wants to deal with someone bad. "Sin or living an ungodly life will cost you more than you want to pay, take you further than you want to go, and keep you longer than you want to stay." —Pastor Lawson Perdue.

While God loves us but does not love or approve of everything we do. Study the Word. Paul continually instructed believers against living ungodly. It is detrimental to us. God loves us and wants us to experience victory He has for us but that does not come through living contrary to His Word.

God blesses and delights in us but He does not bless nor delight in anything or everything we do that is against His will.

God is for us (Romans 8:31) but is not for everything we do. God died for all our sin but does not delight in it. Let them that call on the name of the Lord depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19).

We are candidates of heaven through faith in Jesus Christ, but in this life, we will experience greater measures of hell if we do not live Godly.

What I want to achieve is to motivate, challenge, and encourage you to pursue and live a godly life. I'm not advocating behavior modification but a relationship with Jesus that has the fruit of good behavior, actions, and lifestyle. Behavior modification is not equivalent to Christianity. If you aren't born again, you must be (John 3:3). A change in behavior doesn't produce salvation. Even if a person were able to live a godly life, it doesn't mean they are born again.

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God [grace of God], that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

—Romans 12:1 (Brackets and emphasis mine)

Paul never used scare tactics or the wrath of God to get people to live godly. He motivated them to by the grace and mercies of God. Notice that he beseeched them, not commanded them nor forced them. Loving God will cause you to live godlier accidentally than you ever had on purpose. The best bible that unbelievers could ever read is your lifestyle. Our actions speak louder than words. They speak so loudly that many people can't hear what we are saying.

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

—Philippians 2:12

This verse tells us to work out our salvation not to work for it. When we work out our salvation, we are exercising and/or manifesting that which is already a reality on the inside of us working it to the outside.

According to 2 Tim 3:12 and 1 Peter 4:12-16, those who live a godly life will be persecuted for their faith. If you never bump into the devil, it's probably because you are headed in the same direction. As long as you are swimming upstream, you will find resistance.

Below I list some of the key reasons we want to live a godly life or why our good actions matter.

a) Sensitivity to God

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." —Hebrews 3:13

People who are sensitive to God are not living a life of ungodliness. Living an ungodly life deadens your sensitivity towards God—it hardens your heart towards God. Every time someone manifests a pattern of good works, it increases their sensitivity towards God because they are submitted and in agreement with the Lord through their actions.

Sin or ungodly lifestyle deceives our hearts. It makes our hearts unfeeling, cold, and unyielding to the Lord.

b) Evidence of a changed life and salvation.

This is one of the most important reasons for living a godly life or having good deeds.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."—Ephesians 2:10

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

—Matthew 7:16, 20

If I have a pineapple sign on me, yet I am producing apples, what are you going to believe? My sign or what I'm producing? We were created unto good works not unto ungodliness. We can't just profess to know the Lord unless our actions have to say the same thing. Our actions are the fruit and proof of our relationship with the Lord, not the root. As important as our actions are, they do not produce salvation. Only faith in what Christ Jesus did for us can produce true salvation. But true salvation must make a difference in a person's life by changing and influencing their behavior.

The evidence of our changed life is not just the words we say, but the life we conduct or what the Bible calls our conversation. Relationship with Christ Jesus must be backed by a change in our lifestyle or else we are liars. Many people can say that they are born-again

believers or Christians but the way they live reflects something else. We as children of God ought to live like Jesus, not like the devil.

For many Christians, they say one thing and their actions say another. They are so loud with their words that we can't hear them. If most Christians were arrested for being Christians, there wouldn't be enough evidence to convict them. That's an indication that we aren't living like Christians because there isn't any proof of those Christian claims.

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." —Titus 2:7-8

This verse is also admonishing us to have a pattern of good works noticeable in all things (such as sincerity, sound speech, and so forth) to the point that we cannot be condemned and without reproach or anything negative laid against us. People are watching you if you claim you are a born-again Christian. They expect you to live, behave a certain way. Your lifestyle will either draw people to the Lord or from the Lord (1Peter 2:12). To some people, you are the only Bible they will ever read. You are the written epistle that others do read.

Our actions are so important in this life (1Peter 2:15). They either open doors for us or shut them. We can't just live the way we want or like anyone else, because we are Christians (Acts 11:26) and there is a standard set by our Lord through His word, a standard required of all of us, not just pastors, preachers, and teachers. In an effort to become great preachers, we should not become lousy Christians.

There are things we do not want to do and places we do not want to go because of who we are (Born again).

c) Yield to God or Satan.

i) Romans 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

□ Sin is like sewage that attracts flies.

ii) John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

- Living an ungodly lifestyle opens up a door to the devil to come into our lives and steal, kill, and destroy.

d) Exemplary life

- i) "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." — 1 Timothy 4:12
 - We are admonished to be an example to the believers in our behavior (Conversation). If we are going to be leaders, we ought to have godly influence. When we live a life that doesn't reflect Jesus Christ, our influence goes out of the window and our respect goes out through the door.
- ii) "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample." —Philippians 3:17
- iii) 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
 - Just like the Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26), there is a way a Christian believer ought to live. People have certain expectations from Christians. What we watch, what we listen to, how we dress, and how we talk ought to be exemplary. There ought to be a difference between a Christian believer and a nonbeliever.

e) Temple of the Holy Spirit

- i) 1 Corinthians 6:16-20 "What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
- ii) 2 Corinthians 6:16 "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

- Because God dwells in us, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. If only we treated our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit and as a member of Christ's body, we would think twice about doing what we ought not to do. Our Body is a member of Christ's body. If this is true, which is, then you are dragging the Lord into all the sin and immorality that you get involved in.
- f) Missed opportunities such as Promotion, open doors, and growth.
 - i) "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." —1 Timothy 3:2, 7 (Emphasis Mine)
 - Although living a godly life, having good deeds doesn't make you better than your neighbor, it puts you in a better position than them. No one wants to neither hire nor promote a talebearer, scorner, pervert, a thief, or a slob. Many believers wonder why every time promotion comes around; they don't get it. They wonder why no one wants to promote them but the reason is apparent.
- g) James 4:7
 - i) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - You can't resist what you are submitted to. A lack of good behavior is a submission to Satan. This renders you ineffective to rid yourself of the enemy.
- h) Cause poverty

Sin is expensive. Living ungodly lifestyles is too costly. Sinful acts will run you broke. Divorce, jail, and so forth could be the result of such behaviors.

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 - i) Proverbs 21:17 "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich."

- ii) Proverbs 23:21 "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags."
 - iii) Proverbs 29:3 "Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance."
- i) Shortens life
- i) Psalm 34:12-14, 21 "What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."
 - ii) Proverbs 14:30 "A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."
 - iii) Exodus 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."
 - iv) Psalm 37:27 "Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore."
 - v) Proverbs 14:27 "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."
- j) The revelation of forgiveness.
- i) Luke 7:47 "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."
 - One of the reasons people continue to struggle with sin in their lives and its stronghold is because of the lack of the revelation of forgiveness.
 - This verse points out that He who is forgiven much loves much and he that loves little or gives little has a little revelation.
 - The degree to which we renew our minds to the enormous forgiveness we have received from Jesus releases; we will walk in the abundance of life and it will break the power of sin in your lives.

k) A changed nature and a new Identify in Christ.

Once a person becomes born-again, he receives a new identity. He has a new ID. He must live his new life with this new ID as his point of reference and the very thing to show to anyone who questions who they are. This new ID is "who they are in Christ." They are supposed to see themselves no more by the old ID but only with the new ID. We want to live a godly life because of who we are. We have a changed nature.

- i) Romans 6:2 "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"
- ii) Romans 6:7 "For he that is dead is freed from sin."
- iii) Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
- iv) Children of Light
Ephesians 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"
 - Knowing who we are in Christ is one of the major keys to breaking the stronghold of sin and stopping it from reigning in our lives. A lack thereof is one of the reasons many still struggle. If you a believer, you need to learn to see yourself in Christ. **The way we see ourselves is what we will be and how we will act. If a person can change their inner image of themselves, they can change how they act.**
- v) 1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."
 - One of the reasons that we shall be like Him when we see Him is because we shall see Him and shall be changed into what we see.
- vi) 2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with uncovered face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

- This verse is clearly stating we become what we behold. We are changed into that same image. Until a Christian sees himself right, he may never ever overcome sin.

vii) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

- Notice how Paul says, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Why is he doing this? He was appealing their new nature and to who these believers were in the Spirit to motivate them and encourage them not to sin like the unbelievers (fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners).

Every time Paul dealt with sin in the life of the believer (Galatians 3), he always pointed to who they were in Christ. There are certain things we will never do and certain places we will never go because it is not who we are. There are things I just can't do because of who I'm.

The way you are acting is not who you are. That is not you. If you knew, understood, and had the revelation that you were the righteousness of God, then how would you go commit sin? It would be impossible. I don't suck my thumb. Why not? It's because I'm not an infant. Only infants suck their thumbs.

These verses detail our new identity.

Ephesians 4:24-New Man, New Spirit, righteous and created in true Holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 New creature, He cannot sin – 1 John 3:6; 3:9

Sealed such that no impurities can penetrate – Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22.

- i) New creation – 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ii) One spirit with the Lord – 1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:9, 8:11.
- iii) As He is, so are we in this world -1 John 4:17
- iv) Fruit of the Spirit – Gal 5:22-23
- v) Wisdom, righteous, sanctified and redeemed – 1 Corinthians 1:30;

- vi) Eternally redeemed – Hebrews 9:12
- vii) Has the fullness of God – John 1:16. It is full of the presence of God.
- viii) Anointed – 2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:27 – Anointing abides in us.
- ix) Complete in Him – Col 2:10 – there is no inadequacy in it. We have been given all it takes to live a victorious Christian life in this life. 2 Peter 1:3
- x) Always willing – Matthew 26:41
- xi) Perfected forever – Hebrews 10:14, Hebrews 12:23 – Spirits of just men made perfect.
- xii) Partaker of the divine nature – 2 Peter 1:4
- xiii) Knows all things—1 Corinthians 2:16.

Many of the problems in our lives can be associated with an ungodly lifestyle. Sin is one of the main causes of our problems.

The course of Action: Change your mind (Repent).

Reminder: God's love for us is not based on how holy we live, but on faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.