Basics of the faith

The Christian Life

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3

Becoming a Christian is not the end, but the beginning of a dynamic relationship with God involving growth to spiritual maturity. It is possible to be a true Christian and yet not be a healthy or mature believer.

True faith naturally results in:

- ✓ An inner freedom
- ✓ A strong impulse to faithfulness
- ✓ An effective power to bear fruit

Freedom

An inner peace

Freedom is the assurance that (In Christ) I have no shame or condemnation even though I am not perfect.

Romans 8:1-2

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

Freedom is the power to resist sin.

Romans 8:3-4

"For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin. He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

Freedom

Faithfulness

An obedient life

Faith and faithfulness are related but not the same.

Ephesians 2:8-10

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Holiness is simply being true to our new identity in Christ.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

True holiness involves our motives and thoughts.

Ephesians 4:15

"... But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,"

Colossians 3:2-3

"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Freedom

Faithfulness

Fruitfulness

A vital ministry

Fruitful ministry involves three things.

Romans 12:1a

An intimate sense of God's law and grace.

Romans 12:1b-2

Self-sacrifice

Romans 12:3-8

A proper use of service gifts.

I Timothy 1

"13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."

Head

What we profess

Doctrinal explanation

What God has done for us

Heart

What we experience

Personal encounter

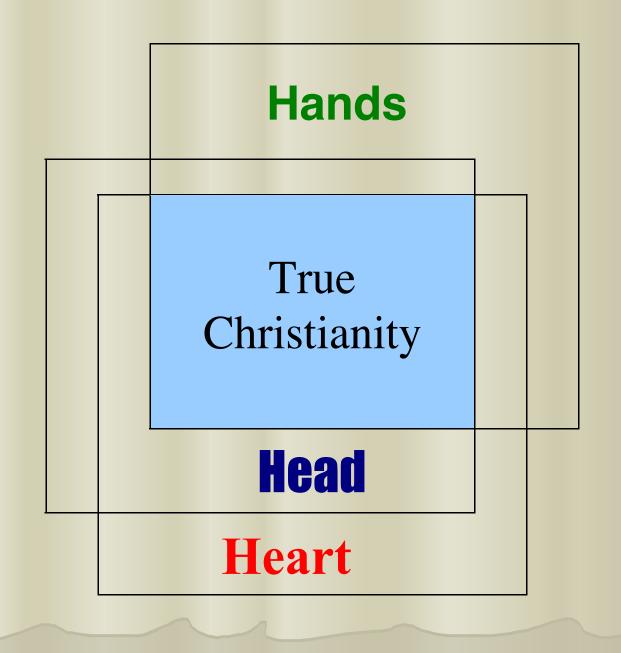
What God has done in us

Hands

What we do

Behavioral ethics

What God has done through us



All Christians are called to a commitment that results in freedom, faithfulness, and fruitfulness.

God accepts us in Christ without approving of everything we believe or do.

True faithfulness is from the inside out.

Matthew 15:18

"But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man."

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3

"14 But a **natural** man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him . . . 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man." . . . "1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"

Three spiritual conditions

Natural man Çarnal man Spiritual man

Non Believer

mmature Bel ever

Mature Believer

Does not get it

A slow learn

Gets it

Worldly

Worldly

Godly

Spiritually young

"a babe"

Spiritually retarded

"a delinquent"