

Do you find this attractive or unattractive? Do you think that living according to the Bible passage is realistic or practical? Explain your answer.

Ephesians study 6

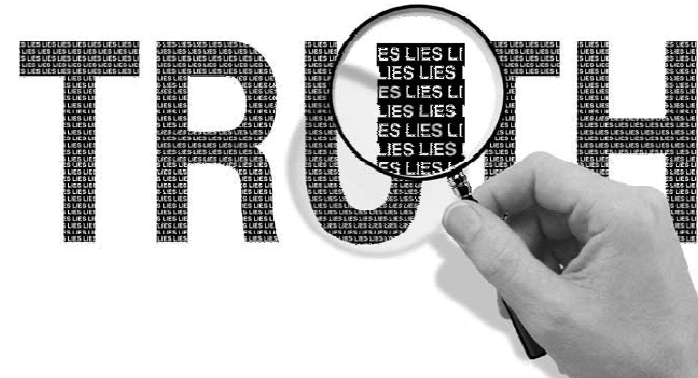
True Living vs False Desires!

Which of these 2 statements are true for Christians? (Hint: Eph 5:1.)

- a. Christians are people who do good things because they have been saved by Jesus.
- b. Christians are people who do good things because they want Jesus to accept them.

What is the difference between the two statements 'a' and 'b' above?

Why is statement 'a' a better motivation to do good things than statement 'b'?



1. No Moralism!

2. Living as a Christian

Ephesians 4:17–5:20

^{4:17} In the Lord's name, I tell you this. Do not continue living like those who do not believe. Their thoughts are worth nothing. ¹⁸ They do not understand, and they know nothing, because they refuse to listen. So they cannot have the life that God gives. ¹⁹ They have lost all feeling of shame, and they use their lives for doing evil. They continually want to do all kinds of evil. ²⁰ But what you learned in Christ was not like this. ²¹ I know that you heard about him, and you are in him, so you were taught the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught to leave your old self—to stop living the evil way you lived before. That old self becomes worse, because people are fooled by the evil things they want to do. ²³ But you were taught to be made new in your hearts, ²⁴ to become a new person. That new person is made to be like God—made to be truly good and holy.

²⁵ So you must stop telling lies. Tell each other the truth, because we all belong to each other in the same body. ²⁶ When you are angry, do not sin, and be sure to stop being angry before the end of the day. ²⁷ Do not give the devil a way to defeat you. ²⁸ Those who are stealing must stop stealing and start working. They should earn an honest living for themselves. Then they will have something to share with those who are poor.

²⁹ When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you. ³⁰ And do not make the Holy Spirit sad. The Spirit is God's proof that you belong to him. God gave you the Spirit to show that God will make you free when the final day comes. ³¹ Do not be bitter or angry or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. ³² Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.

^{5:1} You are God's children whom he loves, so try to be like him. ² Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But there must be no sexual sin among you, or any kind of evil or greed. Those things are not right for God's holy people. ⁴ Also, there must be no evil talk among you, and you must not speak foolishly or tell evil jokes. These things are not right for you. Instead, you should be giving thanks to God. ⁵ You can be sure of this: No one will have a place in the kingdom of Christ and of God who sins sexually, or does evil things, or is greedy. Anyone who is greedy is serving a false god.

⁶ Do not let anyone fool you by telling you things that are not true, because these things will bring God's anger on those who do not obey him. ⁷ So have nothing to do with them. ⁸ In the past you were full of darkness, but now you are full of light in the Lord. So live like children who belong to the light. ⁹ Light brings every kind of goodness, right living, and truth. ¹⁰ Try to learn what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the things done in darkness, which are not worth anything. But show that they are wrong. ¹² It is shameful even to talk about what those people do in secret. ¹³ But the light makes all things easy to see, ¹⁴ and everything that is made easy to see can become light. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper!
Rise from death,
and Christ will shine on you."

¹⁵ So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but live wisely. ¹⁶ Use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸ Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord. ²⁰ Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discuss

Do you think that you are a good person? Rate yourself.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

EVIL **BAD** **NEUTRAL** **GOOD** **PERFECT**

Tick the boxes on the things that you have done:

- tell lies/untruths*
- get angry and say hurtful things to someone else*
- steal (also include illegally downloading programs and apps)*
- say bad things about people (gossip)*
- forgive others who have wronged you*
- generously helped people without expecting anything back from them*
- tell the truth all the time*

Review how you rated yourself. Is there anything that needs to change?

Read Ephesians 4:17–5:20.

How are Christians supposed to be different from other people? Look at the whole passage and make a list of the ways Christians should behave.

eg 4:25 Stop telling lies

Look through the passage again and find out what are the motivations for Christians to live this way.

eg 4:20 They learnt it from Jesus

In your dealings with people, what differences (if any) have you noticed about the way Christians behave and the way non-Christians behave?