

The Christian Arsenal

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Christian Life

What are your “responsibilities” as a Christian?



It's hard to listen to the news today without hearing about “rights”. We have “civil rights”, “equal rights”, “women’s rights”, “human rights”, and even “animal rights”. Everyone is demanding to have his or her rights. Conversely, few of these people stop to think of the other side of that coin and that is what are his or her “responsibilities.” Rights and responsibility go hand in hand. There can be no separation of the two. To separate them would be to create an unhealthy and dysfunctional person or group.

In the church today there seems to be the same problem. We talk about “our liberty in the Lord”, “freedom in Christ”, “Christian Liberty” and

“Freedom from the Law”. These are all true and we should talk about them. There seems to be a tendency by some to not understand the cost of something that is free. Grace, Christian freedom and salvation are free but they did not come at a cheap price. They came at the expense of the most precious commodity in the universe, the blood of Jesus Christ. We should enjoy the freedom God has given us. We should also deal with everything that goes with that freedom. We are freed from the power of sin but we were not set free and abandoned to our own ways.. According to the Bible, as Christians we have responsibilities to live up to. Christianity is spiritual warfare not spiritual welfare!

We are saved by grace through faith. There is nothing we could have done to earn our salvation. It is a free gift from God. While we are in this world we have a mission to carry out. We have been left some orders to obey. The same Bible that talks about Grace, Freedom, Forgiveness and that home in Heaven also tells us what our responsibilities are in this world. Let's examine some of the major area's that the Bible defines responsibility for the Christian. God uses people in His work.

Witnesses. Teachers & Disciplers

Let's start with the #1 authority on how things should be. I refer to the Creator of the universe and the founder of the church, Jesus Christ. In **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus came and told his disciples,

¹⁸“I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (NLT)

That is enough to keep a person busy for a lifetime.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my **witnesses**, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am He: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Ambassadors

We are given a rather noble title in **2 Corinthians 5:19-20**

¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Defender of the Faith and Student of the Word

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We are responsible to keep our minds focused on Christ and to study His word and to be prepared to answer the challenges of our faith.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer** to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly **contend** for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Attendees, Supporters, Encouragers, Givers & Workers

We are to attend church regularly and be an active giving encouraging participant.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another:** and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful **giver**.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without **works** is dead also.

Worshippers who Pray and are Thankful

The Christian is to pray and worship God with true worship.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ¹⁶**Rejoice** evermore. ¹⁷**Pray** without ceasing. ¹⁸In every thing **give thanks:** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

John 4:23-24 ²³But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers shall worship** the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

To be fair the Bible does say something about those who do nothing:

James 2:17-26 ¹⁷So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless. ¹⁸Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." I say, "I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds." ¹⁹Do you still think it's enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror! ²⁰Fool! When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless? ²¹Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did—by his actions. ²³And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous." He was even called "the friend of God." ²⁴So you

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see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. ²⁵Rahab the prostitute is another example of this. She was made right with God by her actions—when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without a spirit, so also faith is dead without good deeds.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 Even while we were with you, we gave you this rule: “Whoever does not work should not eat.”

The Christian life is a life of freedom but it is a life of responsibility and it is a life of privilege. God has given each one of us at least one spiritual gift if not more and we are to serve Him. Paul describes himself as a servant.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a **servant** of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

Many times Christians are unhappy in their lives and they can not understand why. When God saves a person, He calls them into service and when a Christian does not heed the call of God in his or her life, the true joy that can be theirs will never be because of disobedience.

We are soldiers and workers in this world. There is a time of eternal rest so to speak for the Christian, but it is not here in this world. The Apostle Paul reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven.

Philippians 3:20 But we are **citizens of heaven**, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. We are called ambassadors. We are representatives of another world for the creator of the universe.

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are **Christ's ambassadors**, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, “Be reconciled to God!”

2 Peter 2:9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of royal priests, God's holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

This is what some call the BIG PICTURE. You are a “Child of God” whose “Citizenship is in Heaven” who is called to be an “Ambassador for Christ” because you are “Forgiven” you are a member of a “Royal Priesthood” that has been given an important mission. With all of this being said to us, how can a Christian sit by and do nothing? Not only is it totally unbelievable it is totally unscriptural and totally disobedient.