

# Article 8: Christian Living

**We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose.**

- Matt. 7:17-18; – “<sup>17</sup> So, **every** healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.”
- Matt. 12:33-35 – “<sup>33</sup> “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”
- Heb. 11:6 – “<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”
- Eph. 2:10 – “<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
- 1 Cor. 10:31 – “<sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
- Col.3:17 – “<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
- Col. 3:23 – “<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”
- 1 Thess. 2:13 – “<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the

word of God, which is at work in you believers.”

- 1 Thess. 5:23 – “<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 2 Cor. 5:17 – “<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
- 1 Jn. 2:29 – “<sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.”
- 1 Jn. 3:9-10 – “<sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”
- 1 Jn. 5:18 – “<sup>18</sup> We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.”
- 2 Cor. 3:18 – “<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”
- Titus 3:5 – “<sup>5</sup> He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,”
- 1 Cor. 6:11 – “<sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
- Rom. 6:11 – “<sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin

and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

- Rom. 6:14 – “<sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”
- 1 Pet. 1:15 – “<sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,”
- Phil. 2:12-13 – “<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
- Heb. 12:1 – “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,”
- Heb. 12:14 – “<sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”
- Rom. 6 – Entire Chapter
- 2 Tim. 1:9 – “<sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,”
- James 2:17 – “<sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- 1 Pet. 2:24 – “<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”
- 2 Pet. 1:3-11 – “<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that

through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

### **God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially**

- Deut. 6:5 – “<sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
- Lev. 19:18 – “<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.
- Matt. 22:37-39 – “<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Mk. 12:30 – “<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- Lk. 10:27 – “<sup>27</sup> And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.””

**and to live out our faith with care for one another,**

- Rom. 12:10 – “<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”
- Rom. 14:13 – “<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.”
- Rom. 15:7 – “<sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
- Rom. 15:14 – “<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.”
- Gal. 5:26 – “<sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”
- Eph. 4:32 – “<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”
- 1 Thess. 3:12 – “<sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,”
- 1 Thess. 5:11 – “<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
- 1 Thess. 5:15 – “<sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.”
- Heb. 10:24-25 – “<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
- 1 Pet. 4:9 – “<sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without

grumbling.”

### **compassion toward the poor**

- Deut. 15:11 – “<sup>11</sup> For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’”
- Psa. 82:3-4 – “<sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.””
- Psa. 140:12 – “<sup>12</sup> I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.”
- Prov. 14:21 – “<sup>21</sup> Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.”
- Prov. 14:31 – “<sup>31</sup> Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.”
- Prov. 19:17 – “<sup>17</sup> Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”
- Prov. 22:9 – “<sup>9</sup> Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.”
- Prov. 22:16 – “<sup>16</sup> Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.”
- Prov. 22:22-23 – “<sup>22</sup> Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, <sup>23</sup> for the Lord will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.”
- Prov. 28:8 – “<sup>8</sup> Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.”
- Prov. 29:7 – “<sup>7</sup> A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.”
- Prov. 31:8-9 – “<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. <sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously,

defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

- Jer. 22:16 – “<sup>16</sup> He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the Lord.”
- Gal. 2:10 – “<sup>10</sup> Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.”
- James 1:27 – “<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

### **and justice for the oppressed.**

- Ex. 23:6 – “<sup>6</sup> “You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit.”
- Lev. 19:15 – “<sup>15</sup> “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.”
- Psa. 82:3-4 – “<sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.””
- Psa. 140:12 – “<sup>12</sup> I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.”
- Prov. 29:7 – “<sup>7</sup> A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.”
- Prov. 31:9 – “<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
- Isa. 1:17 – “<sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.”
- Jer. 9:24 – “<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.””

- Mic. 6:8 – “<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- Zech. 7:9-10 – “<sup>9</sup> “Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, <sup>10</sup> do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.””
- Matt. 23:23 – “<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”
- Luke 4:18 – “<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,”

**With God’s Word, the Spirit’s power, and fervent prayer in Christ’s Name,**

- Eph. 6:10-18 – “<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord! and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the



evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”

**We,**

- Heb. 3:13 – “<sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”
- Heb. 10:25 – “<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

**are to combat the spiritual forces of evil.**

- 2 Cor. 10:3-5 – “<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,”
- Eph. 6:11-12 – “<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
- 2 Tim. 4:7 – “<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
- 1 Jn. 5:3-4 – “<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

## **In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people,**

- Matt. 28:19 – “<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”
- Jn. 20:21 – “<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.””
- Rev. 7:9 – “<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,”

## **always bearing witness to the gospel**

- Acts 1:8 – “<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

## **in word and deed.**

- Matt. 5:13-16 – “<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”