

THE INFLUENCE OF A GODLY LIFE

Jesus has worked in our lives.

*Why has He done these things?

*It's not for our benefit alone.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God, for as we share abundantly in Christ's suffering, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort to.

*God uses us to affect the lives of those around us.

*This is a ministry that we can all do.

1. Our relationship with God overflows into our relationship with others.

*It starts with those closest to us.

1 Peter 3:1&2 Likewise wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

*Her living out her relationship with Jesus leads her husband to salvation.

*The same principle applies to husbands and parents as well.

Psalms 78: 2-4 We will not hide them from our children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

Psalms 78:7 & 8 So that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

2. It extends to our adopted family in the church.

1 Thess. 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

1 Peter 4:8-11 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's very grace: Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

*This isn't talking about leadership. It's the body ministering to the body.

Titus 3:8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on the things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

*The things that we learn and then put into practice is profitable to people.

3. We are a light in a dark world.

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, so it gives light to all in the house. 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 on heaven.

*You are a light because Christ lives within you.

*Don't hide your light inside a church building.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

*Why would someone ask you about this?

*Because they see something different about you.

*Serving the Lord causes you to stand out.

*The ways of the Lord go against natural reasoning and seems odd to the world.

Matthew 5:43 & 44 You have that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

*This goes against our natural response. It's not what people expect.

CLOSING:

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.