

Making Your Christian Walk Attractive

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Isn't it great to be a Christian?
 - 1. Do your friends, neighbors, colleagues know how you feel?
 - 2. Do they know you are a Christian?
 - 3. How has your life impacted theirs?
 - a) EITHER "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16, NIV.
 - b) OR "You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.'" Romans 2:23,24, NIV.
- B. "Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive." Titus 2:9,10, NIV.
 - 1. The NAS translates "adorn the doctrine"
 - 2. **Illus.** — You can see a nice dress on a rack and — "ok" — but put a pretty woman in the dress and — "Wow!"
 - 3. Most people know some of the basic teachings about Christianity
 - a) Makes some sense — ok.
 - b) But put a happy, committed Christian in front of them day after day and — Wow!
- C. It is possible through the lives that we live to make Christianity desirable, persuasive, or "Attractive"
 - 1. It isn't the **sum** of evangelism
 - 2. It is almost always a **prerequisite** to being heard
 - 3. So, how can I make my Christian walk Attractive?

II. BE A JOYFUL CHRISTIAN

- A. Christianity...
 - 1. Shouldn't be about "have to" — but "get to"
 - 2. Shouldn't be about "suppose to" — but "want to"
 - 3. Shouldn't be about "got to" — but "I'm glad I get to..."
- B. Joy was a hallmark of Biblical Christians
 - 1. The Ethiopian eunuch baptized by Philip "went on his way rejoicing" Acts 8
 - 2. There was great joy in Antioch of Pisidia despite persecution Acts 13:52
 - 3. The Philippian jailer and his household rejoiced at the hearing of the gospel Acts 16:34
 - 4. It is a portion of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

5. "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit;" 1 Thessalonians 1:6, RSV.
6. "Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy." 1 Peter 1:8, RSV.

C. And joy is attractive to a world, when the **best** it can do is "fun and happy"

1. Lots of worldly people kind of feel bad for us, because some religious people just look like they've been sucking on a lemon.
2. Although, yes, there are some serious things about real Christianity...
 - a) There's also great reason for rejoicing
 - b) There's nothing sinful about having good, clean fun
 - c) And we've got a hope the world has no clue about!
 - (1) Sustains us even in dark hours
 - (2) Gives life purpose and meaning
 - (3) Gives us a reason to get up in the morning
3. Too many people in the world don't know this!!

D. You will make Christianity attractive, you will adorn the teachings of Jesus, if you let your joy shine through!

1. Through the Spirit of Christ, the promises and hope from the Lord, and His great blessings to us; let's be JOYFUL
2. And let it show!

III. **BE A FAITH-TALKING (OPTIMISTIC) CHRISTIAN**

A. Have you ever noticed? even pessimists have a hard time standing other pessimists.

B. What the world sees when it sees pessimism is a lack of God

1. They expect it of secular folks
2. "But," they think, "don't Christians have God as a Protector? ...
 - a) To trust in?
 - b) To rely on?"
3. When believers don't walk and talk a life reflecting trust in their God, how will an unbeliever ever be attracted?

C. What they see in a faith-talking Christian is the sort of hope for the future that they wish they could have

1. Christians may not know exactly what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future.
2. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28, NIV.
3. "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." Psalms 37:25, NIV.
4. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33,

NIV.

- D. Such a faith is “stand out” attractive
1. Paul told a crew aboard a ship that seemed destined to go down, “I believe God, that it will be exactly as I have been told.” (Acts 27:)
 2. Because of God’s complete accuracy, truthfulness, and love; be especially optimistic and faithful in your Christian life — And let it show

IV. **TELL OTHERS OF THE GREAT THINGS GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU**

A. In the story of the Geresene demoniac who wanted to accompany Jesus — “But he refused, and said to him, ‘**Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.**’ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and all men marveled.” Mark 5:19,20, RSV.

- B. Share with others
1. Blessings God has given — emph God
 2. Changes God is making — emph God
 3. Meaning / Purpose God gives to you (this is big in a world so full of nihilism)

- C. You share other things
1. Children
 2. Grandchildren
 3. New homes
 4. New cars
 5. New jobs
 6. New furniture
 7. Why not the really important things?! The things God has done for you!

- D. You may be really surprised at ...
1. ...how many people are looking for meaningful changes in their lives
 2. ...how interesting and attractive your story can be to others
 3. So, tell it, let it show and invite others to the same wonderful changes Jesus made to your life

V. **INTEGRITY AND SINCERITY OF YOUR WALK**

A. In Peter’s first letter, focused on how to live a faithful Christian life even in the midst of trial, he said “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” 1 Peter 2:12, NIV.

- B. Paul gave Titus (in ch. 2) — the same ch. in which he says “adorn the doctrine — a whole list of virtues to show and vices to avoid for the whole world to see — like...
1. Honor (honesty) — This is point of Titus 2:10

2. Charity / Love / Sympathy
3. Forgiveness
4. Cooperation
5. Sensible
6. Full of good deeds
7. Maintaining good marriages / Raising good families
8. Passions, desires, and tongue under control
9. ...like v. 8 tells us "sound in speech which is beyond reproach, **so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.**"

- C. People have seen a lot of fake and artificial and saying one thing and doing something else
1. They are looking for the **real** thing
 2. a **godly** life, **consistently** lived, is always attractive
 3. So show them

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. **Are you making Christianity attractive?**
1. It's a great walk of life
 2. Do others know it?
- B. Maybe you need to make some changes in your life
1. You can repent right from the place you sit
 2. Or you can ask for the prayers of this church to help you along your way
- C. Or maybe you need what the Bible is talking about
1. Place your faith in Jesus
 2. Repent
 3. Confess
 4. Be baptized
 5. Be a disciple