

Let Us Grow

In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.
(1Pe 4.4)

Lesson 5

“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

~I Peter 2.2

How Will They See You now?

You probably have already noticed that people in your life react differently to the news that you have become a Christian. You are certainly blessed if those closest to you admire and respect your decision to become a child of God.

It is possible, however unfortunate, that some of the people you love may react with criticism, teasing, or even outright hostility toward your love and dedication for Christ.

With God’s help, you can face this difficult time without damaging your faith or losing your love for them. With His aid, you may even be able to win them over to Christ given enough time and patience.



Examine Yourself

Family and friends who support your change in life to be a Christian will be a wonderful source of strength for you. What are we to do though when someone reacts badly or becomes mean to us simply because we have found faith in God?

Remember to always put Christ first.

Read Matthew 10.34-39 and Luke 14.26.

WOW! Does this seem kind of harsh? Isn’t Jesus always teaching about how we should love, not hate? Well, the answer is both *yes* and *no*. We are to *love* God and one another (Matthew 22.36-40) while at the same time we are to *hate* evil (Proverbs 6.16-19, Romans 12.9).

Jesus said;
“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”
Luke 14.26

In Luke 14.26, Jesus is showing us that the love relationships we have in life (even with our family) must come second to the love we have for Christ. *He must always come first in our heart, no matter what.*

You can continue to love your family and friends, and still be opposed to things that go against God. Truthfully, becoming a Christian should motivate you to be a better son, daughter, husband, or wife. Your new way of living life can be a shining example to others of who Christ is, because He lives in you.

You might have to give up some friends.

No one likes to lose a friend, but sometimes it does happen. A person who loves Christ will stop things like going to drinking parties, or talking about sex all the time, or even listening to music filled with immorality. Many people will just not be able to understand why you have changed and do not do these things with them. You just don't have those things in common any more.

Read 1 Peter 4.3-5. When we give up sin, others may think it is strange. Remember, we all will have to stand before God one day and explain our life's decisions. *Make great, Christ-like decisions!*

Pray

Prayer is a powerful thing. James says, *"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* (James 5.16) God provides help for those who ask, Matthew 7.7-11.

Always strive to place your faith in the strength and might of the Lord. He knows your heart and will provide you with what you need to grow spiritually. Live your life in such a way that others can see Him in all that you do.



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5.16)

What do you think?

The apostle Paul writes, *"Do not be deceived, evil company corrupts good habits."* (1 Corinthians 15.33)

It is not wrong to have friends or associates who are not Christians, most people see them at work or school every day. However, it is not wise to surround ourselves with people who will pull us away from Christ.

Do your relationships need to change in order to stay faithful to God? Who in your life is pulling you back toward the world and sin?

Think about it.