

Why Should I Behave Like a Christian? Romans 12:1-2

Psalm 92:12-15 says, "*The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*" But... is this a true picture of the church in America, and can it be said of us?

Why do so many who call themselves Christians do so many things that are so "un-Christian"?

To answer the question from our title, we really need to go back to the beginning. Let me ask you another question: Are you truly "Christian"... ?

I. **What Motivated You To Become A Christian?** (I.e. why did you get saved?)

1. Some people are "sold" a _____ of _____, _____, _____ and other _____. Little mention is made about _____ and our spiritual _____.
2. There are some who get "saved" _____. Fear is not necessarily a bad motivation to come to faith, and can in fact be quite healthy so-to-speak; but if it is just the emotion... there is still *something* missing.
3. _____. Let's ask... "What are we saved from"? To answer this, consider Romans 3:10-12, 23; 6:23; and the "Ten Commandments" (Exod. 20:1-17). In his letter to the Ephesians Paul said that we are "*dead in our trespasses and sins.*" John 3:36 says, "*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*"

II. What *Should* Be Your Motivation To Behave Like A Christian?

Because of a "feel good", "felt needs", or a social gospel? Out of fear? What would that look like?

_____ should be our motivation. Fact: We're not as _____ as many of us would like to think we are. Why? Because every one of us struggles with our flesh or sin nature. When we were saved, we were saved from the eternal consequences of our sin and given a new nature, but our old nature still dwells within us. See Paul's understanding of this in Romans 7.

Paul struggled, just like you and me, yet he was highly motivated to behave like a Christian. Why? Because of His faith! Because he understood what he was saved from, and what his salvation truly meant! What about us? Do we grasp that reality, that truth? Do you?

III. Why Should You Behave Like A Christian?

I believe it is summed up in one critical and largely misunderstood phrase... one command... _____ (C.f. Deut. 10:12; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 14:7; and Prov. 1:7). To _____ is, briefly, reverential awe, respect, and obedience to His Word (submission). It is seen in:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Conclusion:

(Romans 12:1-2) Why Should You and I behave Like a Christian? Because of _____ Because of _____
_____. Can there possibly be a better reason than that?