

Rebar 101

Christian Living – Toni Buck

All Scripture from the New Living Translation or New King James Version

Christian – Follower of Christ – Luke 9:23-24: Then He said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

Imitate Jesus – 1 John 2:3-6: “And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments. If someone claims, ‘I know God’, but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.”

We must **come to the cross** (1Cor 1:18, 2 Cor 5:17), **grow** (2 Pet 3:18), **being transformed** from sinner to saint (Rom 12:2) and **give our life away** (1 Pet 4:10)

The Greatest Commandment – Matt 22:36-40: Teacher, which is the most important commandment? Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. (*THIS IS LOVE*) A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ (*THIS IS SERVE*) Everything else hangs on these things.

What does this look like?

Love – John 3: 16: “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

1 Cor. 13:4-7: Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

Eph 5:1-2: Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us...

John 13:35 - Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

Serve – Jesus, Others and You – Rom 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

1 John 3:18-19 - Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

Philippians 2:3-4 - Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Serve Him and serve others. We are called to build His kingdom together. We don't just come to church to receive. If we are truly grateful for what we have received from Christ, we will give our life away through service, doing what is needed to carry on the works of Christ on earth.

Faith Community – OUR church – Acts 2:42-47

The Word – Growing through the teaching of the Word. We should be feeding daily on the Word of God.

Fellowship – Gathering together. Church is God's plan on the earth. It's not optional.

Prayer – Prayer is vital. Individual prayer and corporate prayer.

Giving - We give to support the purpose of the church - to promote the gospel of Christ. Tithing is an essential part of living the Christian life to the fullest. When you give to your church, you are giving to God, not man. If we aren't funding Kingdom activities, who will? How will the lost be reached? With all we received, how can we not give back.

The Purpose – The Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Col 4:2-3: Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, **that God will give us many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ.**

How do we do it? Through the power of the Holy Spirit, as Kirk laid out so well for us.

Acts 1:8 - You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.

Romans 8:11 - The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.

Galatians 5:16 - Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

We are in this world, but not of it

John 17:14-19 – (This is Jesus speaking) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify^[a] them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Christians are called to be engaged in the world but not worldly in our ways and thinking. We belong to Jesus and the Holy Spirit lives in us, so sin no longer has power over us. We don't have to live like the world lives to be relevant. We are set apart to live holy lives. Live your life in such a way that others will see that you are different. It will open doors to introduce them to Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 - You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is beneficial. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.

Don't allow your liberties to cause others to stumble. Consider the preciousness of others.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

2 Peter 1:3 - By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

Behave like a Christian - Romans 12:9-21 - *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer, distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*