

Dear Younger Me: Lessons for Life

Life Changing Principles I've Learned

Colossians 3:1-4

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Ron Burks, pastor

Three questions everyone must answer. Your answers determine your course in life:

(1) Where did I come from? (2) Why am I here? (3) Where am I going?

“Living in the reality of who you are in Christ does not change your circumstances or solve your problems, but it does **RADICALLY CHANGE** how you face them.”

~ Ron Burks

Being a Christ follower is difficult, painful, and hard at times. However, it is also rewarding, life changing, and worth it all.

Truth: God uses all things in your life to conform you into His image and bring glory to Himself when you yield your life to Him and follow Him wholeheartedly.

Principle # 1 – KNOW WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST – this will give you strength to combat the negative influence from the world and other people and remind you of your worth/value in God's eyes.

- Memorize truth from God's Word to battle negative thoughts, negative people, and lies, 3:1 (godly thoughts, godly people, and truth form godly self-image) What you think determines what you say, how you feel about yourself (self-worth), and how you act. Therefore, fill your mind with the Word of God.
- Don't listen to what the world and negative people say about you. Instead, set your minds on the things of God, 3:2
When you believe the truth of God's Word about yourself, it will be reflected in how you act, and react, and how you live your life for Christ. Over time, truth becomes a reality and the basis for your actions, reactions, and how you live your life (Habits form in 21 days and become a lifestyle change in 90 days – 21/90 rule).
- As a Christ follower, Christ is your life – this means you **MUST** live for Him, 3:3 Living for Christ is not an option for the Christ follower, it is a command from the Lord. However, God gives you the choice to follow Him or not follow Him. God will bless you or discipline you based on your choice.

Who I Am in Christ

(30 Truths Every Christ Follower Should Know)

1. I am always loved by God, John 3:16, Rom 5:8
2. I will enjoy eternal life with Jesus Christ in heaven, Jn 10:28-29
3. I am justified (declared righteous and free from the penalty of sin) before God by grace through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, Rom 3:24
4. Sin no longer has power over me because my old sinful nature was crucified when I met Christ. Therefore, I must put sin out of my life, Rom 6:6
5. I am no longer condemned by God (no longer suffer God's wrath against sin, Eph 2:3) because I belong to Jesus Christ, Rom 8:1, Rom 4:6-8
6. I am free from the penalty of sin – eternal death, Rom 6:23, Rom 8:2
7. I am adopted into the family of God (He forgave my sin) through the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I must live like His child, Rom 8:23-25, Eph 1:3-14
8. I am sanctified (declared holy) before God. Therefore, God calls me to live a holy and righteous life, Rom 6:6-10, 1 Cor 1:2
9. I am united with Jesus Christ meaning He made me right with God so that I am pure and holy, freed from the power of sin. Therefore, I am free to let the Holy Spirit produce life and fruit in me, 1 Cor 1:30, Rom 8:9, Gal 5:22-24
10. I was dead in sin but now I am alive in Christ. Therefore, I must do the good works He has called me to do, Eph 2:1-10
11. I will always be victorious when I follow Christ, Rom 8:28-39
12. I am being transformed into the likeness of Christ when I yield my life to Him, 2 Cor 3:18, Rom 12:1-2
13. I am a new creature in Christ meaning I must be set apart from the world, 2 Cor 5:17
14. We are all equal before God and one with Christ even though we are given different gifts and responsibilities, Gal 3:28, Rom 10:12-15, 1 Cor 12:13
15. I am a son (child) of God and an heir to heaven, Gal 4:7, Rom 8:15-17
16. I have freedom from sin to serve Christ, Gal 5:13
17. I am blessed with all spiritual blessings to help me endure the challenges and difficulties of life in this world, Eph 1:3, 1 Pet 1:3
18. I am chosen by God to live for Him, Eph 1:4, Col 3:12, 2 Pet 1:3-8
19. I am forgiven completely by God, but I will be disciplined for my sin, Eph 1:7, Acts 3:19, Heb 12:1-6
20. I am sealed with the Holy Spirit guaranteeing that I belong to God and will live with Him forever in heaven, Eph 1:13
21. I was created to do good works. Therefore, He commands me do good works to honor Him NOT to be accepted by Him, Eph 2:10
22. I have access to my Father at any time. Therefore, I must spend time in His presence daily, Eph 2:18, Rom 5:1-8

23. I belong to the body of Christ (the church) which means it is my responsibility to serve Christ through the church, Eph 4:4-6, 1 Cor 12:27
24. I have the peace of God to guard my heart and mind, Phil 4:7, Prov 4:23
25. I can do all things because Christ gives me strength, Phil 4:13
26. God will supply all my needs, Phil 4:19
27. I am complete (full) in Christ, Col 2:10
28. My life is hidden with Christ in God – He must be FIRST in my life, Col 3:3-4
29. I have an inheritance that is incorruptible and eternal, 1 Peter 1:4
30. I must offer myself as a living sacrifice to Him daily and serve Him, Rom 12:1-2