

"LIVE THE GOSPEL"
Plus: Five Reasons for Not Living This Way
Article #4
Matthew 5:16b
“ . . . that they may see your good deeds . . . ”

After we "Know the Gospel"; trusting in Christ alone for the forgiveness of our sins and believing in Him alone for eternal life in heaven we are challenged get baptized and "Live the Gospel". Believers are filled with God, the Holy Spirit at the time of saving faith who comforts and convicts us on how to live. Remember our works (ways of living) do not save us it is Christ alone that saves (Ephesians 2:8-9) but our works are outward expressions of our already changed lives. In this article we also give five reasons that keep us from living the Gospel. Knowing the five ways and five reasons help us to daily reevaluate our lives and quickly get back on track.

#1: BY FAITH

Galatians 2:20-21

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" (NIV)

Reason #1: Legalism keeps us from living this way.

Proverbs 3:3

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

#2: IN NEWNESS

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Reason #2: Ingratitude keeps us from living this way.

Lamentations 3:22-23

"The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. (NASB)

#3: IN THE LIGHT

1 John 1:5-7

"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have

fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (NKJV)

Reason #3: Denial keeps us from living this way.

Jeremiah 6:14

“You can’t heal a wound by saying it’s not there.” (TLB)

#4: IN THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (NIV)

Reason #4: Selfishness keeps us from living this way.

Proverbs 18:1

“An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment.” (NIV)

#5: IN LOVE

1 John 4:10-11

“This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.” (NLT)

Matthew 22:37-40

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (NIV)

Reason #5: Unwillingness keeps us from living this way.

Matthew 5:44

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”

NEXT STEP

Now that you have accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, signed up to be baptized and have read articles #1 "Illuminate Vision", #2 "Know the Gospel", #3 "Openwater Church Baptism Details", and #4 "Live the Gospel" please go to the Vision page of our website and click on read article #5 entitled "Share the Gospel".