

# How to Live as a Christian

Edited by  
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# Preface

Reformed Christianity has long recognized that we exist to know God and to make His glory known through Jesus Christ for the eternal joy of His people. How do we do that in practical life?

The thirty-six brief articles collected in this book seek to answer that question in some of the beautiful variety of the Christian life. Here is a gem with many sparkling facets. For example, chapters address such facets of the Christian life as how to come to Christ for salvation, how to pray, what it means to love and fear God, how to flee worldliness and avoid backsliding, and what Christian faithfulness looks like as a child, parent, husband, wife, and grandparent. Written by godly Christians, these articles were published at the end of the Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible and are now available in a slightly enlarged edition in this book.

I would like to thank the following persons who contributed to this book: Michael Barrett, James Beeke, Mary Beeke, Gerald Bilkes, Lawrence Bilkes, Brian DeVries, Bartel Elshout, Terreth Klaver, John Koopman, David Kranendonk, Ray Lanning, David Lipsy, Arthur Miskin, Eric Moerdyk, David Murray, Don Overbeek, Hans Overduin, Joel Overduin, Jon Payne, Ray Pennings, Cornelis Pronk, Johnny Serafini, Paul Smalley, Geoffrey Thomas, David VanBrugge, Pieter VanderMeyden, and William VanDoodewaard. The remainder of the articles were written by me, and I had the privilege of editing all the articles.

May the God of peace, who brought up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead through the blood of the everlasting covenant, use this book powerfully to make its readers

complete in every good work to do His will, working in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to His glory forever! Amen.

Joel R. Beeke



# How to Live as a Christian

## Coming to Christ

Since the fall of man into sin, the great question has been: “How can sinners be brought back to God?” God drove Adam and Eve out of Paradise for their sins, but through Christ we can return to God and Paradise (Rev. 22:1-2). John therefore testifies, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (v. 17). Man was sent away from God, but now he is brought to God through Jesus Christ. The question that remains is: How do you and I come to Christ?

What does it mean to come to Christ? Mistaken views abound, such as making a decision for Christ in one’s own strength, raising hands during silent prayer, reciting the sinner’s prayer, walking forward during an altar call, getting baptized, taking the Lord’s Supper, mentally agreeing to certain truths, having mystical experiences, or seeing miracles.

Coming to Christ begins with God’s call. God commands all who hear the gospel to repent and trust in Christ. The

gospel presents Christ to men for their salvation. Paul said, "But we preach Christ crucified. . . . Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:23-24). The death and resurrection of the Son of God are powerful to save sinners. Christ says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). When someone refuses to come to Him, all blame rests upon the sinner. Jesus said, "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" (John 5:40).

However, God does more than issue a universal call. He also makes an effectual call that draws sinners to Christ. The Lord Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). We are so blind and dead in sin (Eph. 2:1; 2 Cor. 4:4) that we cannot come and will not come, but with God all things are possible (Matt. 19:26; John 6:44; Eph. 2:5).

We come to Christ when we are drawn actively to Him by faith as He offers Himself to sinners in the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit. Such faith involves self-renunciation as we see we have no righteousness of our own (Phil. 3:9), reliance as we rest upon Christ's person and shed blood upon the cross (Rom. 3:25), and appropriation as we receive Christ and apply Him as the great medicine for all our spiritual needs (John 1:12). We can only come to Christ to save us from sin if we see ourselves as sinners, breakers of God's holy law who deserve judgment (Rom. 3:19-20).

By the Spirit's grace, have you turned in faith to Christ as He is offered in the gospel as your only hope for salvation? This is a sure sign of coming to Him! If this is so, give glory to God, for apart from the Holy Spirit no one can come to Christ (1 Cor. 12:3). The Spirit gives life, and the flesh profits

nothing (John 6:63). Praise the Father that His Spirit has blessed you with faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have not come to Christ, then why not? Let no obstacle hinder you. Read the Bible and listen to preaching that testifies of Christ. Don't let friends lead you astray. Do not let the sins of people in church keep you back from eternal life. If you have not already, learn the basics of Christianity through a good catechism. Do not persist in unbelief or harden your heart. Stop loving this world. Quit clinging to your sins. Repent and believe the gospel. Don't be a fool and think that God would never damn you. On the other hand, do not be so proud as to think that your sins are greater than the grace of Christ. Christ can save the worst of sinners. Do not delay. Humble yourself today, and call upon the name of the Lord Jesus. He is rich to save all who come to Him.