

Grace Evangelical Free Church A Christ-centered Life

Definition and Core Understanding

A Christ-centered life is a daily embodiment of devotion, love and obedience toward Jesus, grounded in Scripture, true Biblical reality, and oriented toward glorifying God as dependent, deployed disciples. Followers reorder priorities, worldviews and behaviors around Christ's teachings, demonstrating genuine faith through committed discipleship. This reorientation transcends simple acknowledgment of Christ's identity; it grows out of pursuing Him wholeheartedly in every aspect of life: spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical.

Focus on Relationship with Christ

At the heart of this life is a transformative relationship with Him. Jesus says, "**Remain in Me, and I will remain in you**" (**John 15:4**). Such a relationship implies ongoing surrender, characterized by daily prayer, time in the Word and reliance on the Holy Spirit's leading. It involves personal communion with God where confession, repentance and worship cultivate a transformation and growth in Godly character.

Biblical Foundations for a Christ-Centered Life:

1. Authority of Scripture

Scripture is the supreme rule of faith and practice. As **2 Timothy 3:16** states, "**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness.**" A Christ-centered life draws its guidance from the entirety of God's Word, trusting its consistency, historical veracity and eternal truths – unalterable convictions of right and wrong, taken together as the only true truth within the universe defined, demonstrated and identified as Biblical reality which is the only true reality.

2. Singular Focus on Salvation through Christ

A core tenet is that salvation comes by faith in Jesus alone (cf. **John 14:6**). His atoning sacrifice and resurrection remain the central historical and spiritual anchor upon which Christian faith stands (**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**). Numerous historical documents and first-century testimonies-like those by Tacitus, Josephus, and corroborating manuscripts-support that Jesus truly lived, was crucified and that His early followers testified He rose from the dead. Such resurrection hope ignites a life committed to Him as Lord.

3. Empowerment by the Holy Spirit

A Christ-centered life is not conducted in human strength alone. Believers receive the Holy Spirit as "**the Helper**" (**John 14:26**) who empowers them for godly living, sanctifies them by guiding them into truth (**John 16:13**) and enables them to show Christ's love to the world. Early eyewitness accounts of the Pentecost event (**Acts 2**) and ongoing testimonies of believers throughout history give evidence to the Spirit's transforming work and miracles in every generation.

Character and Conduct

1. Obedience and Holiness

Christ-centered living models Christ's own submission to the Father. This is seen in passages like **John 6:38**, where Jesus says, "**For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**" A follower, similarly, seeks to do the Father's will in daily decisions, conduct and pursuit of holiness. This includes "**new creation**" (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) character standards that uplift fidelity, honesty, purity and compassion.

2. Love and Service

True discipleship is expressed by love for God and love for neighbor (**Matthew 22:37-39**). Practical service is central: feeding the hungry, helping the poor, encouraging the downtrodden, and building up others in the body of Christ. Historical church records and modern missionary efforts, such as relief work worldwide, provide tangible examples of how believers have carried out Christ's command to love with the primary purpose of sharing Christ as Savior and Sustainer.

3. Humility and Sacrifice

Philippians 2:5-8 exhorts believers to have the same mindset as Christ-humble, serving, willing to sacrifice. Christ-centeredness means placing one's own interests aside for the sake of the gospel and for building others up. This self-denying attitude is a reflection of the cross and a powerful demonstration of authentic faith.

Spiritual Disciplines and Practices

1. Prayer and Worship

Prayer fosters an ongoing conversation with God, whether in private devotion or corporate gatherings (**Philippians 4:6-7**). Worship, both personal and communal, exalts God's character and sovereignty. Throughout history, the regular gathering of believers, described and modeled in **Acts 2**, has served as a means of encouragement, doctrinal instruction and evangelistic outreach.

2. Study of the Word

Since the Word of God is living and active (**Hebrews 4:12**), personal study and systematic teaching bring believers closer to Christ. As Biblical reality with respect to all aspects of life (physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual) informs our hearts, manifested in our actions and reactions, the trustworthiness of Scripture is affirmed and displayed, reinforcing its role as a faithful guide.

3. Fellowship in the Church

A Christ-centered journey is never walked alone (**Hebrews 10:25**). Encouragement, accountability and collective worship within a community of believers strengthen faith and promote spiritual maturity. From the early house churches in **Acts** to modern congregations-whether large or small-fellowship is key to sustaining a vibrant, Christ-oriented focus.

4. Sharing the Gospel

A defining mark of one centered on Christ is the eagerness to testify of Him. The Great Commission in **Matthew 28:19-20** mandates believers to "**go and make disciples of all nations.**" This international growth of the church, from first-century eyewitnesses to global missions today, underscores the call to proclaim the resurrection and saving grace of Jesus.

Transformation and Evidence of Growing Faith

1. Renewing the Mind

Romans 12:2 instructs, “**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**” This renewal develops in accordance with biblical truths-applying scriptural convictions to shape a true Biblical reality worldview, decision-making and interactions with others. Such transformation reflects the power of God’s Word as applied by the Spirit.

2. Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 lists characteristics such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as evidence of the Holy Spirit’s work. While perfection is not attained in this life, as a Christ-centered believer experiences growth “**in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**” (**2 Peter 3:18**), these traits are reflected as both a witness and testimony.

3. Enduring Hope

Because Christ is risen, believers have a steadfast assurance that transcends worldly anxieties (**1 Peter 1:3-4**). This living hope encourages perseverance in trials. Across the centuries, personal testimonies of believers-from early martyrs to modern-day examples-show resilience, peace, and joy rooted in the reality of the resurrection.

Ultimate Purpose: Glorifying God

All aspects of a Christ-centered life converge on one overarching aim: bringing glory to God. As **1 Corinthians 10:31** expresses, “**So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.**” In every area-family, work, service, recreation-the believer’s focus is to exalt Him who created, redeemed and sustains.

God’s design in creation, confirmed by observations of complexity in nature and pointed to by many credible scientific findings, reveals the Creator’s artistry and intention for relationship. The verifiable truth of Christ’s resurrection, upheld by centuries of manuscript transmission and historical scholarship, confirms His lordship over life and death. Together, they reinforce that centering all things on Christ is the ultimate calling for those desiring genuine purpose.

In every generation, the Savior’s invitation remains: follow Him, abide in Him and center all of life’s pursuits around Him as Lord and King. Ancient prophecy, fulfilled by Jesus according to reliable manuscripts and confirmed by archaeological evidence, testify to the firm foundation of faith on which the believer stands. In this way, a Christ-centered life stands not merely as a moral ideal, but as Biblical reality: God’s ordained path toward true fulfillment, everlasting hope and the glory of His name.