

# CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

By: Bill Richardson      Edited by: Bill Kelly

My thoughts are constantly busy when I'm trying to come up with the next subject that I want to research, scripture study, and put into a detailed study writing. It was on a Sunday night after my wife, Bobbie, and I returned home from worship that my mind finally settled and the decision was made, I chose the subject, "Christian Conduct," for this study writing. The next morning, after a good night's rest and after my thoughts became active, and I was enjoying the beauty of the day, I became excited, and yes I know why! The joy of my heart was a feeling of reward, because I knew that this subject study was needed, on my part anyway. It would be a learning process, that it would be challenging, and I accepted the challenge in anticipation of improvement on my part, along with help and improvement to you the reader, and that we would grow in love one for another, and with our growth in love we can and will glorify our Creator more and better..

For whatever reason, my thoughts were of conduct around Christmas time, and I suppose it's because of one of the songs which we sing with the younger children during that season of the year. The song admonishes: "You better be good; you better not cry; you better not pout; I'm telling you why....Santa Clause is coming to town!" You know at least some of the other words in the song, which says that Santa knows if you've been good or bad. Well I'll leave that, and for fear that you may think I'm using the song in a wrong way I say this: We know who knows everything and for sure HE knows if we've been good or bad. HE KNOWS OUR CONDUCT. And that's for sure! Give thought to CONDUCT, it is our subject!

Yes, conduct is good or bad; it's right and acceptable or it is wrong and sinful and rejected. I believe you know that. I believe that we can improve in many ways, including what we think, say and do, our conduct. But I am of the opinion that if we will study and refresh our memory by research and cultivate our knowledge that we can be blessed to have gain and increase in our knowledge, rejuvenate vigor, and rededicate improved conduct. We could say, "Study to show ourselves approved, by improving our walk in life as we serve God and our neighbor." Hey, it's still a great truth and principle: "As we think, we act and do!" Thinking, yes...it-is-a-mind-thing!

So, what do we need to do? We must continually, underscore continually, think and do what is right. That is our conduct. Doing right, in love, that's good conduct! That is what causes our will, (our conduct), to be the will of Him, who first loved us. If that's not our way of conduct, we will not be found faithful. You know what? WE MUST BE FOUND FAITHFUL IF WE'RE GOING TO GET HEAVEN. That is plain truth!

If the last statement above is true, and you and I know it is, then how would we answer the question, "How can we be found faithful and be sure, and know, that we'll get there?" Get to Heaven is what is being asked. A little scenario: John Paul, sitting in the front row of the Bible Class, holding up his arm just as high as he can, waving his hand anxiously and the Bible teacher acknowledges him and says, "Yes, John Paul, what do you say the answer is?" John Paul replied, "We will get to Heaven by the Grace of God and by our conduct here on earth." From that class room scene and the answer given, sets, really, the study challenge for us and I am very anxious to get on with it. How about you?

I want to make an observation by saying, "It's a mind thing." A computer has a "chip," I've been told, which is uniquely designed and very powerful. It causes the operational functions of the computer, which is very hard to comprehend. So it is with the mind of man that controls man's functions, his activity, his thinking, doing or whatever. If that be true, man's mind controls his conduct, which is our study. You can't deny it. It is a mind thing. And not believing what was said does not make it untrue!

I can't define or explain the computer chip any more than what I have already said. I do however want to give some defining words, terms and synonymous words that describe the word conduct in order to refresh our memory and create a better, stronger, and more dedicated life. This can result, I pray, in a greater desire on our part to be of good behavior and in doing His will. Let's say, "We're endeavoring to grow better conduct!"

Conduct defined in the simplest of words is, "The way a person acts." It's already been said, how we act and do is a mind thing. But let's look at it by saying this, our controlling mind is developed and responds to what and how it is taught, and the knowledge gained. What one is taught from infancy to discernment or maturity is dependent upon one's parent, guardian, and others and is influenced by social, ethnic, and cultural origins, and the behavior of these to whatever degree, which is often unknown.

Oh, what and how needful it is for us to have proper training (teaching). Our minds must have good and proper training in order that each of us may exercise the right conduct in all of life. I am convinced if that were to happen to all of us, and it can, and that it took the nature to be reciprocally, what joy and peace there would be in life here and in the hereafter. People would line up to perform Christlike conduct acts in doing God's will and for all mankind. You know? Doing good to others is doing God's Will.

I do want to list some conduct synonyms, and action words, before I forget and let them swim around in our mind as we go forth in this study. They'll help....guaranteed! CONDUCT (Syn.): Act; Behavior; Manners; Deed; Actions; Manage; Control; Deportment; Supervise; Demeanor, and Interact.

Let us be convicted, (cause to believe), and let it be our conviction, (firm belief), that there is no greater need in our life than to know and then respond properly, that our conduct, while controlled by our mind, is the very essence of our actions and that we must have proper control in order that we receive that reward for which our Lord died upon the cross. Our conduct is our answer to what, where, when, and why, of our total being. Our conduct must be such as to, *fear God, and keep His commandments: This is the whole of man* (Ecclesiastes 12:13). The whole of man is so important, and is why we should be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Amen!

Now let's go further into the Scriptures and view from beneath the clouds so as to have the clear view with no obstructions. We know of and about bad conduct. And by listing examples and giving thought and study to our conduct, we will be blessed to see more clearly good and proper conduct and its purpose. We must have a greater desire to conduct our life to that which is right. We must!" Just do it!"

1. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT MUST BE SUCH AS TO OVERCOME THE WORLD. What were the simplest of words we use to define conduct? The way a person acts is what we recorded. In order to overcome the world is by our conduct. That's the way to do it. Our faith, our love, our devotion and dedication to doing the will of our Lord without dispute is the way we can and must overcome the world. That's conduct.

1 John 5:1 says, *"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him."* Through believing in Christ, we are born of God. It is right that we should love God and love also our brothers and sisters who have also been begotten of Him.

**2. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT IS THE ACT OF PERFECTING HOLINESS.** Jesus in His own words gave dialogue in Matthew 5, beginning in verse 43, about our conduct, the way we should act toward loving our neighbor; about, yes, our conduct of love and prayer toward our enemies. Christ also spoke of reward for proper conduct. Christ's formula was to us; one's action (conduct) of love toward others, our fellowman, and our brothers in Christ, if, provided it is the right love action, if our conduct is like God, then we are like God. Jesus' summary is in verse 48 of Matthew 5, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

We can't deny the fact that our conduct will be measured, and with the same measure that we use, it will be measured back to us. Note Luke 6:43 and you make the application, *"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit."* Is conduct involved in fruit bearing? We better good, because we have been told why and we have been warned of the consequence. Strive for?

**3. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT IN ACTS OF PUTTING AWAY ALL SINS.** As Christians, our conduct is a reflection of "The Church," "Christ's Church." In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we are gathered together, when the Saints are gathered to conduct worship to God, to fellowship one with another and in no way entertains, and if there should be a need for cleansing, it must be done.

Note the teaching as to the conduct needed in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, *"Therefore, purge out the old leaven, that you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover was sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*

Sin is sin. Just as there is no small truth, there is no small sin. We know that God is a God of "truth," (Psalm 31:5), (Deuteronomy 32:4), and we know that we must, *"Now therefore, fear the Lord; serve Him in sincerity and in truth..."* (Joshua 24:14). And we are told in John 1:14, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* Living in truth and sincerity is required to be acts of our conduct...if it isn't, well, there's sin in our life. Such condition must be purged from us.

It is the Christian's conduct to know and act accordingly to the divine laws given to us of God in His Word. To know the Word we must study the Divine Word, God's Will. Then to become knowledgeable, we must diligently affect His Word into our conduct. Our conduct, the way we act, must be guided by His Will. His Will requires action on our part. It's an absolute truth, "If we are to be found faithful so as to be rewarded a life eternal in Heaven we must diligently do the Will of our Father in Heaven." To enjoy the blessings cited, purge out all sin and conduct life to the Will of the Father in Heaven.

When we from a heart of love became Christians, our mind set was to seek things which are above, where Christ is sitting on the right hand of God. Our life then must be a life hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life appears, then we also will appear with Him in glory. We are given these truths in Colossians 3:1, 4. In order for the saved" to come to

fruition we must, therefore, put to death, (mortify), turn away from evil acts and desires which are sins; fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Put off also; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth, and we must not lie to one another. These actions of “put-aways” are found in Colossians 3:5-9.

There are some “put-ons” (‘do’s’, if you will) listed in Colossians 3:12-15, note them: *put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another, even Christ forgives us, so we also must do. But above all things put one love, which is the bond of perfection.* Doing right, good, and His will is a lifelong blessing of our conduct.

Let the peace of God rule in our hearts, to which also we were called in one body; and be thankful. If our conduct in putting away all sins is successful, we will be blessed. Then continue doing; “What ‘er we do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Col 3:17)

#### 4. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT MUST BE ACTS IN LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

Jesus in His life of ministry, teaching us proper conduct, said in John 15:9-13, “*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*”

Now, here it is; “*This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.*” Is there a greater conduct-act than love? Note what is said in Rom 12:9-13 prefaced by this truth, [Christian love is not mere emotion, but action.] “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor, (detest or hate), 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.*”

Being involved in the cited acts is, in my thinking, the greatest of acts of love. In Ephesians 5:2, Christ asked that we do, “*And walk, (live), in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*” O what love! Hebrews 13:1 say: “*Let brotherly love continue.*” Conduct in loving one another is, or should be, self perpetual. It mirrors our action in serving God acceptably. It is conduct in loving one another. ‘O how that is needed!

5. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT IS ACTS IN ALL OF LIFE CONFORMING TO OBEYING CHRIST AND LIVING FOR CHRIST. Are we diligent in conduct in keeping Christ’s commandments as set forth in John 14:21? Here is what it says, “*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*” Obeying Christ is showing love for Him in keeping His commandments. Remember and remember always, obedience is a sign of genuine love. Disobedience proves a lack of love. That is strong...and it is true!

Note what is involved in living for Christ and resolve to live that life. Through life, all of life, and also in death Christians belong to the Lord. It is not our purpose in life to serve ourselves but to serve Him. The inspired Word in Romans 14:7-9, says this about living and dying, “*For none of us live to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if*

*we die we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again that He might be Lord to both the dead and the living.*" This same principle is echoed again in 2 Corinthians 5:15. The motive that compels all our conduct actions is Christ's love for all humankind; we love Him because He first loved us. (It's recorded in 1 John 4:19.)

When Christ died for all, He made it possible for all to die to their selfish ways of life. When by faith we accept this death to self we can live a new life pleasing to Him who not only died but rose again. That's Christian conduct....and you know what? That's a blessing of...to...and...for...life. That is our walk! Conduct conforming to obeying Christ and living for Christ.

**6. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT IN LIFE MUST BE AS SUCH THAT OUR WALK IS ACTS THAT CONFORM TO THE FOLLOWING:**

a). Titus 2:11-12 tells us that *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we shall live soberly, righteously, and Godly in the present world."*

b). 1 Thessalonians 4:12 – *"That you may walk honestly toward those who are without, and that you may lack nothing."*

c). 1 Thessalonians 2:12 – *"That you would walk worthy of God who called you into His own Kingdom and glory."*

d). Colossians 1:10 – *"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."*

e). Romans 8:1 – *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

f). Romans 6:4 – *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

g). Ephesians 4:1 – *"I now therefore beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you were called."*

h). Ephesians 5:8 – *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."*

i). 1 Peter 2:24: *"...we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness..."*

The very best thing to say here is: "Each of the scriptures cited in, a) through i) above, are great studies and sermons within their own context. We should however, study them; know them and their application to our Christian conduct. Pray with me that we do make them a part of our walk and in our teaching of them to others to the glory of God."

**7. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT IN ACTS WHICH ARE CHARACTERIZED BY SHOWING A GOOD EXAMPLE.**

If because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully, if one takes it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps: *"Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed"* (1 Peter 2:19-25).

Our example of Christlikeness in our conduct is a great influence an example in teaching others Christ, attitude, and relationships. If we are examples we are patterns. Note Titus 2:6-8, we are exhorted to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. What an honor to God if we pattern our Christian conduct thusly!

**8. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT IN ACTS OF DOING AS WE WOULD BE DONE BY OTHERS.**  
The principle taught in Matthew 7:12 should be, no it must be, the Christian's conduct, note what it says, *"Therefore, whatever you want man to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* That's strong...the Law and the Prophets. Christians must obey the law. In fact we should continually do for others all the things we want them to do for us. Our conduct in life of loving others is living by God's gift of His grace to us, and it shows God's grace to others. Such love fulfills the true meaning of the Law and the Prophets, as Jesus stated in Matt 22:27, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

Is there any doubt that in Christian conduct of love, that we love our neighbor, that we practice doing as we would be done by others? *"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you do to others, you do to Me."* That's the bottom line, taught by the Lord, in Matthew 25:31-46.

**9. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT MUST BE ACTS OF LIVING PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN.**  
I'm sure it would be most difficult, and if it could be done, that it would be out of order, to try and prioritize the different points made in analyzing conduct. For us to have a greater appreciation of conduct acts which need to be analyzed in effect of the dedication and obedience in order to live peaceably with all men, I submit that we need to look at the conduct of today's society. If you were to list, if you could, the conduct acts which have nothing to do with living in peace with all men, but are in fact the opposite, it would be mind boggling and a wound of heart and soul. The list would be acts of worldly activity. It is to say, worldliness is bad or wrong conduct, and it is sin! Conduct of Christlikeness and Godliness is what is needed and it is right and acceptable conduct.

Let us together, look at Romans 12: 17-18. Here we are advised that we must, 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."* In dealing with this we must be fair and considerate as we can and thus live in harmony. Retaliation never stops evil; Love and peace is the antidote. Hebrews 12:14 says, *"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."*

Peace, the opposite of jealousy and strife must characterize our relationship with all people. Christian conduct is to pursue peace with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. From Christ we draw strength to live the Christian life in conduct which is fair, considerate, and peaceably with all men. I need an Amen here! The sayings, "Let us, in love, join hearts and do what we are taught by the Holy Word." Let's pray and do individually and collectively so as to be found faithful that we will receive the promised blessing of life together eternally.

The way a person acts equals conduct. There can be no doubt that conduct will be with us, a part of us, always. It—is—personal! Proverbs 23:7 tells us, “*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*” We believe and teach that, Amen! And it’s good that we do. It is very deep! By that I mean it’s strong, it’s not milk, it is strong meat. I’ll write it this way also, “For as our mind is properly taught, and knowledge is gained and that knowledge permeates our mind and becomes sincerely active, with acts of wisdom, so are we; we are involved in right and good CONDUCT.” Amen!

The scriptures and commentary that has been set forth in this study has been of great benefit and did me much good. These wonderful scriptures and principles which we have studied are conscious (mind) motivating and it is my prayer that you, who read and studied, will accept all truth herein, and that it will be a conscience server to you also.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love that we submit or expose to our mind. With confidence, I say that you are studying this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be of great benefit to you. With confidence I also say that you desire to be blessed, to gain more knowledge, (true abiding biblical knowledge), which is associated with responsibilities, creating a desire to seek, to search diligently, to accept when found, to associate with, and be an active part of, and that you will abide faithfully in the Lord’s Church until death.

The church, of which I am speaking, cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom—His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church that you read about in Bible, Christ’s church. It is the only church that we read about in the Bible (See Ephesians 4:5) You cannot pass through Heaven’s gate if you are not in His Body, (His Church); that is the truth; that is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view my Website, and often, [www.geocities.com/dubbyt](http://www.geocities.com/dubbyt), and please note other consecrated writings. New study writings are added along as completed. There is a writing posted that I am sure you will want to view and copy. The writing title is, “The Church of the Bible, Christ’s Church.” It has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, “What Must I Do To Be Saved.” Please studies both “Biblical-Truth”; study them with an honest and receptive heart for truth and obedience. You will be blessed! God bless you for studying with me on this great subject. God loves you! In addition, I do too! Your servant in the Lord...

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