

Steeple News

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A Christian Is

Most of the discord in the church and between churches happens when we forget that the simple requests of Jesus are not found in complex theology but in the simple directives that Jesus spoke to the multitudes. The simple statements of Jesus are within the comprehension of almost anyone. The central creed of Christianity is simply to do our best, to do good wherever and whenever and to whoever we can. It is to believe that feeding the hungry is more important than ritual and repetition. It is to match deeds to thoughts, placing human service above lip service while making our homes, offices and neighborhoods the production laboratory for Christian ideals.

To be a Christian is to live with gratitude, with empathy, with gentleness and faith. It is to seek refinement rather than extravagance, to be worthy rather than popular, to prefer intrinsic beauty rather than faddish style.

Normally, we will find a Christian wherever there is a human need; mowing a lawn for a disabled neighbor, watching over a sick child, offering a loan to lighten the load of a worthy friend. Christianity will be found in the arms of a person helping a mother with a new child, helping a divorcee who is afraid of the world and the future, and who comforts a child who sat out the whole ballgame on the bench.

The Christian is made up of charity, who gives without looking back, a humility that kneels when no one is looking, and a faith that believes when evidence casts doubts.

The commandments, parables and Beatitudes are not only written in their Bibles but also on their hearts, where they are used as references. The true "Christian" is not only a person of theory but also of application. His first rule of negotiation is the Golden Rule. Law is used for justice, not money. Peace is created at home and marriage is based on Christian ideals of equality and mutual respect.

The true Christian is a follower in word and in deed of Him who became the servant of all manhood tempered by tears and royalty beneath a crown of thorns. Like the silent candle that burns in the night; quietly, graciously and freely shedding its light, -the Christian- lives on, grateful for the life which now is and for the promise of that which is to come.

Rev. Hans Lillejord