

Living the Christian Life:

Quit Trying to Live for God

Introduction:

- The phrase “living for God” is **never** found in the entire New Testament.
- Living for God indicates that I am doing something to help God. I am doing something on God’s behalf.
- The truth is - what can I do for the God of this universe?
- We need to stop trying to live for God and we need to get back to the emphasis of the New Testament.

What is the focus of the New Testament concerning Christian living?

First, my new *position* in Christ.

- When a person places his **faith** in Christ, the Holy Spirit enters into him, baptizes him into the **body** of Christ, and he is now said to be “in Christ.” Galatians 3:26-28
- The emphasis in Paul’s epistles to the church is not on what the believer can do **for** Christ, but rather what God has already done for the believer **in** Christ.

Second, living my life *unto* Christ.

- “For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live **unto God.**” Galatians 2:19

- Living **for** God indicates that I am initiating something on God's behalf.
- Living **unto** God carries the idea of "**surrendered** to God." Romans 6:13, 12:1; 2 Corinthians 5:15

Third, Christ living *through* me.

- Clearly, the Bible teaches that the moment I am saved, Christ comes to live inside of me. Romans 8:9-10; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27
- Christ came to live inside of me so I could experience and express His **life**. Colossians 3:4; Philippians 1:21
- The emphasis isn't on me **doing** something for Him, but rather Him doing something through me.
- Do I serve? Do I labor? Absolutely - but not through my power or strength, but through **Christ** living in and through me. Colossians 1:29; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 15:10

- **Law** says, "You'd better live **for** God and do the things He expects - you'd better do something **for** God."
- **Grace** says, "God, you've saved me and done everything for me in Christ - now here I am, surrendered to You - do **through me** whatever You will."

**Quit trying to live for Jesus and let Jesus
live through you!**

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."
1 Thessalonians 5:24