

Answers Are Needed - 1

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Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another
Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time—
1 Peter 2:23 when insulted Jesus threatened not
Ephesians 5:1 be imitators of God
2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight
 8 crown of righteousness
Mark 10:17 what shall I do to inherit Paradise
Mark 10:21 One thing thou lackest
Matthew 6:3 Let not thy left hand know
Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasure
Matthew 22:36 the great commandment
Micah 6:8 God hath shown us what is good

Good *questions* bring good *answers*—they make us *think* and *respond*.

- 1 Have we given our life and attitudes to God?
- 2 Are we acting from *love* toward everyone?
- 3 Do we treat family members in a way that they know we *love* them and *appreciate* them?

The answers to those questions tell us whether we are *bearing spiritual fruit* by showing *Christlike attitudes* toward people.

Showing a kind and pleasant attitude to those outside our church may be the only Truth they ever see or hear!

Time is valuable and in short supply—do *not* waste it but *redeem* it and *use* it to show

Christlike attitudes to everyone on all occasions—
AV **Ephesians 5:16** “*Because the days are evil.*” Time is precious and how we use it is connected to our eternal destination.

- 4 Are we showing patience and a friendly attitude toward everyone?
- 5 Are we being kind and considerate only when we *feel* like it or only when others are around?
- 6 Or are we pleasant and congenial *all the time* with *everyone* and in *every situation*?

God has given an *invitation* to enter His Paradise kingdom—

7 What are we doing with that invitation? We are *responsible* for what we *do* with it.

We can place little *value* on it and *reject* it—and eventually send ourselves to the lake of fire; or we can place the *most* value on it, *accept* it, and direct our life toward *Heaven!*

Everyone is born and matures not *knowing* there is a sinful nature within that makes them do all kinds of things they should *not* do, and to keep all kinds of wrong attitudes they should *not* have nor keep in their heart.

8 Is the attitude we start each day with what Jesus said it should be?—an attitude that portrays consideration and concern for those we interact with?

NKJV **Ephesians 4:32** “*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*”

9 Have we responded to insults, offenses, and unkind treatment in a scriptural way?

When Jesus was insulted, He often did *not* reply. When He was mocked AV **1 Peter 2:23** “*He threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.*” Jesus is *always* our example.

He explained the right way to *treat* people; He described how to *respond* to insults; and He emphasized all through Scripture, how to *trust* His Heavenly Father for every *need* every *day!*

The apostle Paul spoke for the Lord and told us—
NKJV **Ephesians 5:1** “*Be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*”

It is how the apostle lived, and he says to follow His example. How we *finish* is *important* because we either finish *strong* or we finish *wrong!*

To finish *strong*, we need to follow the apostle’s example—AV **2 Timothy 4:7** “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*”

10 Have we also *kept* the faith by *showing* a Christlike attitude to all people?

11 Have we responded to things and people as Jesus told us to respond?

If we are doing that, we will eventually receive a “*crown of righteousness*” from the Lord who is “*the righteous Judge.*” 8 *All them also that love [the Lord’s] appearing*” would be given a free pass into Paradise.

We are directly responsible for what we *do* with the invitation God has given us to enter His kingdom. We can *discard* it and end in the flames; or we can *accept* it, *keep* it, *show* spiritual fruit, and *enter* Heaven!

God could have *us* pay the *penalty* for our unscriptural attitudes and unkind responses, but in His love toward us, He sent His *Son* to pay the *penalty* for us for those unscriptural ways.

Jesus effectively took our place on the cross. It was the same as if *we* sacrificed *our* own life for *our* own sins.

12 Do we appreciate that *sacrifice* He made *for us*?

If we expect to enter Heaven by faith in Jesus, we will have to *know* and *do* the will of the Father—that is how important it is to *give* our life to Him and to accept His way to *live, act, and respond* toward people and situations.

13 Are we dealing with our finances in a scriptural way?

14 Are we trusting God to supply what is needed and not looking to other sources?

15 Do we consider the poor and give to charity?

Jesus said when we give to the charity AV Matthew 6:3 “*Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth;*” and 6:19 “*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.*”

Giving to the poor anonymously and not stockpiling financial resources in case of an emergency, just shows we love *God* more than we love *money*.

Everyone has the privilege of asking the *ultimate question*—the one asked by a man kneeling before Jesus: AV Mark 10:17 “*Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*”

There is not a more *important* question and no One more *qualified* to answer it! After saying there is only *one God* and *only He* is truly good, Jesus told the man to keep the Commandments.

The man had observed those commands from his youth—he had *not* committed adultery; had *not* taken anyone’s life; did *not* steal anyone’s money; he had *not* made any false statements; had *not* cheated anyone; and he always honored his parents.

Jesus looked at him and loved him as He loves everyone—so He went on to tell him the truth that could save his soul.

AV Mark 10:21 “*One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*”

It was the truth about faith in God for finances—being willing to *trust* Him for every need every day.

It wasn’t about what the man had, but about the surplus he *kept* for a possible future *need*. He had to eliminate the finances he kept for security—in the event that a future financial crisis would be met.

It was about the man’s *love* for money and his *desire* to be financially secure—effectively eliminating trust on God—something that can never be eliminated.

16 Was the man living according to the teaching of the New Testament and following the commands of the Master—including the Ten Commandments?

The answer would be, No! The man had *not* observed the most *important* commandment—To love God with all his *heart, soul, and mind*.

And if he *loved* God, he would *obey* God on finances. Matthew 6:19 “*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.*”

Jesus was later asked AV Matthew 22:36 “*Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*” 37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* 38 *This is the first and great commandment.*

39 *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* 40 *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*”

17 Are we holding on to some type of *treasure* because it may increase in value years down the road, and could be sold on eBay or some other platform?

Are we keeping excess money in a savings account for possible use some time in the future?

If we are holding on to anything because of its *increasing value* over time and maybe *selling* it later with the intent to give the money to the poor, then why not sell it *now* and give the money to charity to be sure we are doing what the man in Mark 10 should have been doing?

18 To conclude Part 1—What do we need to *know* in order to be living God’s *Truth*? How can we be *sure* that we are in His will and living in a way He has explained in the Bible?

We should always be *honest, ethical, and proper* in all business dealings and in every other situation—because we *believe* in Jesus and have placed our *faith* in God. We want to do what God has said is important to do.

We should be *merciful* toward others when being told something about that person. And we must be sure that we are *not* acting, talking, or deciding from any *pride* in our heart.

God has told us how to be living a godly life of faith in Him. AV Micah 6:8 “*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*”

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