

The Disciple

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What should a Christ-centered life look like?

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A Christ-centered (or Christocentric) life is one that is focused upon a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. At the core of every human decision is a motivation. Some people are motivated by the quest for pleasure or money. Some center their entire lives on a goal, a job, or even their families. These things are not wrong in themselves; however, that which we center our lives on can become our god.

The human heart was designed for worship, and if it does not worship God, it will worship something else. If we are not Christ-centered, we will be centered on something else. Worship is measured by the amount of time, money, and emotional energy expended. Our gods can be identified by the level of passionate commitment they evoke in us, and, after a while, we begin to resemble them. We talk about them, think about them, dream about them, and scheme to spend more time with them. People who know us best usually know where our deepest passions lie because worship is hard to hide.

Followers of Christ who center their lives on Him start to become more like Him. They talk about Him, think about Him, dream about Him, and scheme to spend more time with Him. They choose to obey His commands out of love and honor for their Lord, not from fear of being caught in sin. The greatest desire of Christ-centered believers is to please Him and grow to be more like Him.



If I Want to Love like Jesus

By Justin McRoberts

If I want to love like Jesus,
(and I do)
I will be hurt
By the ones I love,
Not define them
By their offense
And believe that life
On the other side of that
injury
(and the work to heal it)
Will be richer.

Their lives echo Paul's words in [Philippians 3:10](#): "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death." The chief aim of a Christ-centered life is to glorify God.

But a Christ-centered life is not to be confused with a religion-centered life. The Pharisees in Jesus' day were religion-centered. They ate, drank, and slept the Law. They could spout rules, codes, and judgments as fast as a child can recite the ABCs, but Jesus had harsh rebuke for them. They were Law-centered but not love-centered, and it made all the difference ([Matthew 23:25](#); [Luke 11:42](#)). A religion-centered life strives for supremacy, attention, and glory based upon performance. It keeps score and judges itself and others by self-made standards. Christ-centered lives rest in the finished work of Jesus on their behalf and yearn for holiness as a means of staying close to Him ([Hebrews 12:14](#)).

The secret to living a Christ-centered life is understanding the "fear of the Lord" ([Psalm 19:9](#); [Proverbs 16:6](#)). The fear of the Lord is the continual awareness that our loving heavenly Father is watching and evaluating everything we think, say, or do. Those who live Christ-centered lives have developed a tangible awareness of the presence of Jesus ([Matthew 28:20](#)). They make decisions based upon the question "Would this please the Lord?" They avoid Satan's traps and worldly entanglements because they evaluate their choices: "If Jesus was spending the day with me, would I do that? Watch that? Say that?" ([1 Timothy 3:7](#); [Ephesians 6:11](#)). Every lifestyle decision is weighed on heaven's scales and evaluated for its eternal significance. Lesser loves fall by the wayside because they steal time, resources, and energy away from the real passion of life-pleasing Jesus. However, living with the fear of the Lord requires a conscious, ongoing commitment to it, and even the most devoted will fail at times.

No person has ever lived a perfect life except Jesus ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). Even those who deeply desire a Christ-centered life will stumble, fall, sin, and make fleshly decisions in moments of weakness ([1 John 1:8-10](#)). But a Christ-centered person cannot endure living in disharmony with God and will quickly confess sin and be restored to fellowship with Him. This process of living in continual harmony with God is called [sanctification](#). It is a life-long process by which God makes us more like Jesus ([Romans 8:29](#); [Hebrews 12:14](#)). When we first center our hearts on Him, our lives quickly follow.



Sunday

Mornings

LIVE

On Facebook

Each Sunday morning you can view the 11:00 am Worship Service as it is happening LIVE on Facebook. Simply login to your Facebook account and go to the Louisa Christian Church page.

You can still view the service anytime by following the link on our website, **LouisaChristianChurch.org**.

Each week's sermon is posted under Worship Resources along with the worship handouts and the newsletter.



Ash WEDNESDAY



We are putting together a special project for the Ash Wednesday Online Service. We need your help. Please take a picture of yourself with a cross of ashes on your forehead. Email this photo to Pastor Vincent (lccpastorv@gmail.com) by February 14th.



Dear Members of the Outreach Committee,

Many thanks for all you do and have done for our senior church members. Having a nice meal delivered to your door is so welcomed during this pandemic and cold winter months. A nice meal certainly helps brighten one's spirits and reminds us how wonderful it is to have such a warm and caring church family. Thanks to all who help prepare and deliver the meals. What a blessing it is to belong to Louisa Christian Church!

Pat and John Purcell.

Announcements

- Church Board Meeting Tuesday, February 9 at 7:30 pm . Look for the Zoom invite or attend in person.
- Did you know you can join either of our Bible studies from the comfort of your home or face-to-face? We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and Thursdays at 7:00 PM. F Contact Pastor Klüg for more info.
- People have expressed interest in a couple's Sunday School class. -- Whether you are single or married, this class will relate to you. Please contact Pastor Klüg to find out more...
- The Food ministry continues to meet needs. If you would like to receive a meal, please contact Penny Best or Pastor Klüg.
- If you are visiting with us via Facebook Live or Youtube, please sign a visitor card by texting Pastor Klüg your name and favorite way to be contacted.
- If you would like to be on the Prayer list please contact Pat Purcell at pat@jspurcell.com or Pastor Klüg. As names are listed in our bulletin, please contact her to remove names/requests as well.



Lenten Activities

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021) and continues until Easter Sunday.

These are illustrated cards for some thought provoking activities during Lent. The Cards for Sunday outlines a simple candlelight service, including a Lenten confession, words from scripture, a bite-sized meditation, and a little blessing; and the other cards feature simple, engaging practices to try as we travel the road to the empty tomb. Each newsletter will give sets of cards until Easter.

ASH WEDNESDAY

LIGHT: 8 Tealights + Christ Candle

CONFESS: God of love, you are God, and we are not. While you mend, too often we tear apart with injustice. While you are the very breath of spring, we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Mend us, heal us, bless us, and make us live again in you. Amen.

EXTINGUISH: 1 Tealight

READ: Isaiah 58:5-8

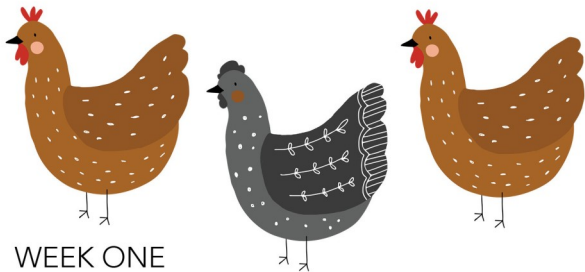
MEDITATE: Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

BLESS: May God bless you and keep you! May the radiant face of God shine upon you as we begin our Lenten journey from ashes to crocuses. In Jesus' name, Amen.



WEEK ONE PRACTICE

Place a little bowl of water by the front or back door this week, and every time you enter and exit, dip your finger in the water and sprinkle some on your face, or draw a little heart on your forehead. Remember that you are blessed: "You are God's beloved!"



WEEK ONE PRACTICE

When Jesus was baptized, scripture says that the Holy Spirit descended "like a dove," but the Greek word can also mean "pigeon." Take a walk this week and see if you can find any pigeons, doves, or any other birds. Reread Mark 1:9-15, and substitute whatever birds you saw on your walk ("like a sparrow," or "like a chickadee," or "like a blue jay"!).



WEEK ONE PRACTICE

When you wash your face, remember your baptism.
+ Martin Luther

This is good advice – and it also extends to washing the dishes, cleaning the toilet, and doing laundry. Pick a chore this week that involves water, and do it without being asked, remembering your (and Jesus') baptism as you do. Many hands make light work!

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

LIGHT: 8 Tealights + Christ Candle

CONFESS: Dear God, here we are: beloved, flawed, beautiful, failing, and trying again to be your people in the world. Forgive the wrongs we have done, and the good we have left undone. Amen.

EXTINGUISH: 2 Tealights

READ: Mark 1:9-15

MEDITATE: Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

BLESS: May God bless you and keep you! May the radiant face of God shine upon you as you become who you truly are: God's beloved child, in whom God is well pleased. Amen.



WEEK ONE PRACTICE

"DIG DEEPER" TEA CEREMONY QUESTIONS:

Make a pot of tea, invite your beloveds to sit at a table or on the floor in a circle, and ask everyone these questions:

- Have you ever been baptized? Do you remember it? What details do you (or your family) remember? And in any case, what does baptism mean to you?
- What makes you feel loved? What makes you feel safe? What makes you feel happy?
- Name three things about yourself that you're proud of.