

The Life We Have Is NOT Ours To Own

How can I make such a statement as the title to this study?

The Holy Christian Bible that the Creator of life sent to show us how to conduct our lives tells us that we are only stewards of this life which belongs to Him who gave it and sustains it.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

It is a spirit in us that makes us human, gives us the ability to think, plan and construct things in our lives.

This spirit in us will, at the end of stewardship, return to the Creator God for His assessment as how we used it.

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 [Amplified Bible] *“Remember your Creator earnestly now, before the silver cord of life is snapped apart ... and the whole circulatory system of the blood ceases to function. Then shall the dust, of which God made our body, return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God Who gave it.”*

How are we then to conduct this life over which we are stewards?

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

This short period of time we call life is for us to yield to our Creator as clay does in the hands of a potter, for Him to create in us a being that can inherit an eternal life in His presence.

Romans 9:20 [NIV] *“But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’”*

God the Master Potter is Sovereign over all creation and we are not to question what He chooses to create in us.

How does this moulding take place?

John 15:1-8, 16 [NIV] *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you [Jesus Christ speaking]. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” ... “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

These are the words of Jesus Christ the Son of God. The fruits that we are to have in our lives as a result of our relationship with Jesus Christ are spiritual [only thing eternal] fruits.

Galatians 5:22-23 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

These are the fruits we will bear in this relationship with the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit.

Our lives are not our own, they belong to our Creator, but His desire is to mould us into something that can receive from Him eternal life.

Romans 3:23 [NIV] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

All of us have sinned, rebelled against our Creator.

Romans 6:23 [NIV] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

All we as sinners can earn by ourselves is eternal death.

Eternal life only comes as a gift through our relationship with the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit.

Shouldn't we then use this limited stewardship to seek a favourable relationship with the only One who can give us a life beyond the grave.