

# The Normal Christian Life - Not Subjective

By subjectivity I am referring to a subject rather than an object, which arises from the mind itself instead of from observation of external things. Derived from inner consciousness, pertaining to oneself characterised by the individuality of the author.

**Subjectivity is another defect that can be adverse to the work that our Saviour Lord Jesus Christ wants us to do as a true dedicated Christian.**

As we pointed out in another article it is essential for every Christian to cultivate the ability to hear what people have to say, otherwise we have no means of getting to know them, and consequently are unable to serve them.

**Another harmful effect of subjectivity is the inability to learn.**

**A subjective person is so self-opinionated that they are almost unteachable.**

Unteachability is one of the most tragic aspects of subjectivity.

**If a person cannot learn, what possibility of advance is there?**

**There are endless lessons to be learnt in the spiritual realm, so we must be prepared to receive help from many quarters.**

**The secret of spiritual advance is openness to the Eternal God, we must throw open our hearts, mind and human spirit, [Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11].**

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and human spirit. Only then can the Holy Spirit begin to re-educate us to be in harmony with our Creator rather than this world, which is ruled over at this time by Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19].

**Only after this surrender do we make way for divine impressions to reach us, to replace our subjective thoughts.**

**God demands instant acceptance of His Word, the Christian Bible, and has recorded for us to learn from human examples. The two responses, that of Abraham, [Genesis 12:4] who was instant in obedience is contrasted to that of Balaam, [Numbers 22:1-40] who ostensibly came to seek God’s mind, but his own mind was already made up, he knew what he wanted to do and was bent on doing it.**

**The problem with subjective people is that if God says “go,” they are so set in their own ideas that it takes a long time before they can adjust to His command.**

**If eventually they do “go,” they become so set in their “going” that they cannot instantly obey any other commands from God, having to go through another period of painful adjustment.**

**In Abraham’s offering up of Israel we get a beautiful picture of a man who had been saved from himself.**

**If Abraham had consulted his own experience when God asked him to offer up Isaac as a living sacrifice, he could never have obeyed.**

His thoughts would be *“how can God nullify His own purpose by requiring me to offer up Isaac, through whom would come the Saviour of all humanity?”*

**If Abraham had been subjective, the last moment stopping Abraham from obeying Him, when the knife was at Isaac’s throat would have created a new problem for him, [Genesis 22:1-13].**

**Abraham’s instant obedience left no room for perplexity.**

**When God asks some Christians to sacrifice this or that part of their life for His sake, such as keeping the Sabbath instead of Sunday, they immediately think of all sorts of problems relating to His Word.**

**The simplicity of God’s revealed will is subjected to the complexities of their own thinking, with the result that if there is obedience at all it is tardy and laborious.**

If we attach our personal thoughts to the recorded will of the Creator God as found in His Word, the Christian Bible, when His commands demand a change, our thoughts remain fixed and this setness of mind prevents us from simply doing His will.

**Psalms 32:8-9** [New King James] *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.”*

Even a horse or mule can be made to do what their master wills, with physical external control, but our loving Heavenly Father never intended to direct His children in this way.

The horse and mule *“have no understanding,”* [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27**].

But God’s children, all human beings, have the opportunity of an intimate relationship eventually with Him.

**Knowledge of the will of God is not a question of finding the right method, or group of people, but finding the right man, Jesus Christ the Son of God, one Person of the Triune God, [John 1:1-4, 14].**

A further point to note in regard to subjectivity is that unless our ego has been laid bare to us by the Creator God and drastically dealt with, we will **not** be fit instruments in His hands to help others with their lives.

It is impossible for a person who has **not** learned to discern and do the will of God to be used by Him to lead others into His will.

**If a Christian in whom the ego is still dominant seeks to instruct others in the way of God, however much they may impart doctrine, their own intellectual and emotional background will inevitably come into expression and obscure God’s way.**

**Consciously or unconsciously such a person will seek to dominate others’ lives, imposing their opinions on them.**

**They may pose as a great leader of God’s people, a great teacher, but however impressive their leadership may be, they cannot express divine authority because their lives are dominated by their own will, not the will of the Creator God.**

**Matthew 20:25-26** [New King James] *“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet*

*it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”*

**If we are to become good shepherds, at any level, God will have to bring us very low, [John 15:1-8].**

**Let us remember that God respects the free will He has given to every human being and if He never coerces anyone, how dare we?**

**No matter how strong our personal convictions are, we must learn to distrust ourselves, for we are all prone to err, the more self-assured we are the more liable we are to go astray.**

Another of the dangers of subjectivity is that our self-confidence makes us eager to lead others, the greater the following we can attract, the more our self-confidence is fed, with the result that we are able less and less to receive help from others or to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit.

It is only those who have learned submission who will **not** be set in their own ways and will **not** always take the initiative and lead their fellow Christians, or seek to *“laud it over others.”*

**Every Christian and human being has a right to make their own free choice in everything. We must beware lest we rob them for their God-given free will by imposing our convictions upon them.**

As long as a person who is of a subjective disposition is left in a solitary state their individualism is **not** apparent, but place them together with a few other people and immediately they will take the lead.

We stress the need of yieldedness as we live and work together. But this does **not** mean indiscriminate submission, nor does it mean silent tolerance of evil.

**Philippians 2:1-4** [New King James] *“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

**This harmonious atmosphere is the ideal, though at times we may be called on to deal firmly with others, when we see them going astray in their personal lives.**

**Jude 21-23** [NIV] *“Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear, hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.”*

**We need to have a mixture of love and mercy mixed with fear to reveal their state to some who are going astray.**

**Philippians 1:15-18** [New King James] *“Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defence of the gospel. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.”*

Can you see the poise in Paul’s life? He could rejoice if people received his message, but if they rejected his message and opposed him, he would still rejoice because Jesus Christ was being preached, and did not take it as a personal affront.

**The subjective person is obsessed with their own ideas and is always advocating them and they are apt to feel hurt if their suggestions are not followed.**

But the person who is continually receiving correction from his Creator God, [Hebrews 12:5-7] hesitates to take the lead and shuns the danger of trying to manipulate other lives, is the person whom Jesus Christ can use in His work of salvation.

**To sum up what we have been saying, if our Lord's purpose is to be realised through us, we must be delivered from all subjectivity and that can only come about as we allow the Eternal God to take us in hand and deal unsparingly with us, for our ego is the crux of this trouble.**

In some lives this is more obvious than in others, but none of us is exempt from the trouble.

**We still have our own opinions and our own ways of working, and we all still have a tendency to seek to control others.**

So let us humble ourselves under the hand of the Almighty Creator God that He may make us uncompromisingly faithful in all we do in His name, constantly gentle in spirit in our dealing with every other human being we are brought in contact with.