

# The Christian Witness Without Words

**Matthew 5:14-16** [New King James] *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

**A light is normally silent.**

**What does this tell us about our personal Christian witness to this world that is so full of noise?**

**Christianity must be demonstrated in action rather than commended in words.**

What then are the major qualities which a Christian life should be characterised by?

## **Serenity –**

**This world is littered with people who, as we might say, are permanently disorganised.**

They are always fussing, worrying, sometimes in a near-panic and never quite catch up with their work.

**There should be in the life of a true Christian a certain calm.**

**A worried Christian is a contradiction in terms.**

**John 14:27** [New King James] *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

This peace of mind is the result of the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit sent by God the Father, [verses 25-26].

**Philippians 4:11-13** [New King James] *“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

Paul, after his meeting with Jesus Christ, had serenity in his life, through the strength that he received from his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**As a result of this intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, there should be a calm, quiet, unhurried and unworried strength within a true Christian which is the opposite of the feverish and fretful inefficiency of the world.**

Such a contrast is a bright light in a dark world.

## **Kindness –**

**A true Christian should be kind in their judgements, kind in their speech and kind in their actions.**

It is characteristic of this world to think the worst, and put the worst construction and interpretation on any action.

It is characteristic of this world to be so taken up with self that it has little, if any, time for kindness towards others.

**Philippians 2:3-4** [New King James] *“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 can be shown by becoming a good listener, without judging the person. Allowing the person to think out the problem they have by talking to you, knowing that you will not be judgemental.**

## **Humility –**

There are few things so common in this world as conceit, people who are well pleased with what they have accomplished.

**John 15:5** [New King James] *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

The true Christian has come to realise that of their own strength they cannot accomplish anything of lasting value.

Humility really means the extinction of self.

**It is only when self is extinguished that a person can perceive the first condition of learning, the admission of our own ignorance.**

**Above all, it is only when self is extinguished that a person can really see the beauty and the necessity of service.**

**Only humble people can discover that the essence of life is not in being served by others, but in serving others.**

**Matthew 20:25-28** [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. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served.’”*

**The new way of life that our Saviour Jesus Christ brought to all humanity, was in stark contrast as to what we find in society that is at this time ruled by Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; Matthew 4:8-9].**

**Philippians 2:5-8** [New King James] *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*

**Our Saviour Jesus Christ leaves us the perfect and ultimate example of humble service of all mankind through His sacrifice for us on the cross.**

**Romans 12:1** [New King James] *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*

We can follow the example of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, by offering our life back to God as a “*living sacrifice*”.

**Humbly surrender our will to God so that His will for our lives can be fully accomplished.**

## **Certainty –**

**The true Christian life should be characterised by certainty of a future life after physical death.**

This certainty must extend beyond our own death to the death of those we love, and those who know us as Christians.

**When death comes, so many people are submerged in sorrow, so many are left in a state of collapse, so many grow bitter and resentful.**

**Many live as if all that they are left with is memory, and as if there were no hope.**

**Romans 8:35, 38-39** [New King James] *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” ... “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**The true Christian is the person who in life’s bitterest hour is still certain that nothing in life or death can ever separate them from those whom they loved or from the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

It is God’s will that all will have a chance to come to an attitude of repentance and seek the cleansing of all their sins by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Then through the work of the Holy Spirit develop the very characteristics of the Creator God, [Galatians 5:22-23], become acceptable to a holy God and receive the gift of eternal life.

**This wonderful good news can and should be first demonstrated by the lives of true Christians, that will prompt people to ask about this hope they have.**

**1 Peter 3:15-16** [NIV] *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”*

Only then will people be ready to accept what we tell them, directly from God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**Eventually all people who have ever lived will have the chance of salvation from the result of their sins, [Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23] and have God’s Word, the Christian Bible, opened up to them for the first time.**

**Read of this time in the revelation given by Jesus Christ to the apostle John, recorded in the book of Revelation chapter 20.**