

The Benefits Of Being A Christian

Galatians 3:26-28 [New King James] *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Simply, Christians are human beings united with other people by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, being their Saviour.

Romans 8:9 [New King James] *“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”*

All true Christians have the active presence of the Holy Spirit within their lives, generating the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit in them, that is the very character of the Creator God.

Once we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour, in God the Father’s eyes all the various distinctions that cause divisions among human beings are evaporated. There is **no** place for discrimination, racism or even gender differences.

We are all of equal value to God.

We were created to enjoy a personal relationship with God and to manage all the rest of His physical creation, [Genesis 1:26-27].

God has made humans stewards of all the rest of His physical creation on this earth and as a result of good management we will have many physical benefits in our lives.

This is but a small part of our relationship with our God, and many eternal spiritual benefits can be ours.

John 10:10 [New King James] *“... I [Jesus Christ speaking] have come that they [His sheep, Christians] may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

This means we are not really living to the full until we have this relationship with Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, we are only existing!

Why?

Because we were created to be loved by God and to love Him, [1 John 4:19].

John 17:3 [New King James] *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

Not limited to this physical life but on into eternity, the Greek word translated “know” is “ginōskō” an intimate relationship, symbolically like that between a man and a woman within marriage, [**Luke 1:34** – same word used].

When we know and love God, and live in harmony with Him, fulfilling the reason for our existence, tremendous benefits are produced in our lives

A clear conscience –

Romans 8:1 [New King James] *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”*

Accepting Jesus Christ as a substitute sacrifice for our deserved death, [**Romans 6:23**] is the only way we can ever experience a clear conscience.

Life and peace of mind –

Romans 8:6-9 [New King James] *“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”*

We can only be *“spiritually minded”* when we have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, guiding us as a Christian.

Help with our needs and weaknesses –

Romans 8:26-27 [New King James] *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

As a believer, a Christian, we are not left to our own resources to cope with problems. Even when we do not know what to pray, the active indwelling Holy Spirit will prompt us.

When we face decisions on a day-to-day basis the Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance God’s Word, the Christian Bible, [**John 14:26**] so that we make the right choice.

Romans 8:28-30 [New King James] *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*

For our lives to progress towards being given eternal life as a created child in the very Kingdom of God.

Confidence –

Romans 8:31-33 [New King James] *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”*

When we meditate on the promises made by the Almighty Creator God, through His Apostle Paul in the preceding verses, how can we be anything but full of confidence for the future!

Security –

Romans 8:39 [New King James] *“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.”*

King David was well aware of how aware the Creator God is of our existence, read and meditate on what he wrote in **Psalms 139:1-17**.

All the power and strength we could ever need –

Philippians 4:13 [New King James] *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

This is something that Paul had learnt along with contentment [**verses 11-12**] as he faced a stressful and painful life preaching the gospel message to hostile people.

Fulfilment of all our needs, physical and spiritual –

Philippians 4:19 [New King James] *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

We can trust that God will supply all our needs, even the courage that Paul had to face imprisonment and death. This letter was written from Rome during his imprisonment awaiting execution.

True freedom –

John 8:32, 36 [New King James] *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” ... “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”*

The freedom is from remaining on “death row” that our sins have placed us [Romans 6:23]. This freedom comes by our faith in the substitute death of Jesus Christ on the cross being applied to our sins.

The above is the kind of lifestyle the Almighty Creator God wants every human being to experience.

How do we begin to live in this way? –

Romans 12:1 [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.”*

The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning the whole of life, physical body, mind and human spirit, [**Job 32:8**] offered back to the Creator God who gave us life.

This is done out of gratitude for what He has done for us and all humanity through the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“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.”*

Then through the indwelling active Holy Spirit in our lives God will re-educate us into a being He will desire to have a relationship with for all eternity, [**Galatians 5:22-25; John 17:3; Romans 6:23**].

The choice is yours to make!