

The Commandment Between Knowledge and Application

“For to me, to live *is* Christ,” (Php 1:21) Thus, the Apostle Paul discovered this basic fact of human life... To cling to Christ and live by him in an unceasing fellowship, for he is the “way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14). Christians do not only derive their name from Christ, but their lives as well, and in the same time they proclaim Christ's life in them through their conduct in life.

The life of Christ flows in us through his words, which if experienced by a person, it would give him life (Lev 18:5) “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life” (Jn 6:63), “if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.” (Jn 8:51.)

The most serious matter that corrupts Christianity is when the command of Christ becomes a collection of teachings and lofty ideals far from applying it our real lives.

This is the most important point which atheists rely on to find a fault in Christianity: “Christians have failed to live according to the teachings of the founder of their religion...!!”

We need two essential points to bare witness to our Christianity...

First: To know the commandment and to keep it. **Second:** To be able to apply it to our conduct... Knowing the commandment comes by regular reading and studying the scriptures, listening to sermons, and memorizing verses... Keeping all of this puts the commandment before us and feeds our minds with it, but this is not enough, **we need power to put this to action.** This power is obtained from a living relationship with God on two levels, the level of personal prayer in the prayer chamber, and the level of Church life through the sacraments.

If Christians settle for some knowledge of Christ's teachings and did not seek the power to put these teachings to action through living personal and church prayers, their Christianity becomes barren and unable to provide a living and joyful fruit, that reflects the life of Christ in them, to the world. And they would become unable to rise to the level they are called to, the level of being the children of God.

This shows us the seriousness of neglecting the prayer chamber and neglecting the regular attendance of liturgies. These practices are not obligations in our faith but rather they are vital connections that should be continuous and unceasing, because through them, we draw power from the divine fountains so that we can live our Christianity... Without these practices, we would be weak and disabled, and our faith becomes dead.

A final point that should be clarified, the most beautiful way to live with Christ, is when the line between reading the word and prayer disappears, such that **we read with the spirit of prayer, and also pray with what we read, i.e. our readings become fuel for our prayers...** Only then, our reading, hearing, and praying with the holy word make us present in a paradise where our lives are gradually shaped to take the image of Christ and his liking

Then, our testimony will shine with light beyond description, and overcomes the mightiest barriers, for there is no power in this world that can stop the testimony of a Christian who clings to Christ and does his commandments.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Col 3:16).

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Ts 5:17).

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