

5 Suggestions On How To Fail As A Christian

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 NIV -

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

5 SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO FAIL AS A CHRISTIAN

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE - Life as a believer is not an easy life, but it is the BEST life.

Some people express sorrow over the fact that they had to give up a lot of things to become a believer in Jesus Christ.

In a sense, that is right.

- You gave up hell for heaven!
- You gave up your sin for your salvation!
- You gave up your rags of unrighteousness to be clothed in a robe or righteousness, which is in Jesus Christ.
- You gave up your old father, the devil, for the Heavenly Father, who really loves you and cares for you!

- Some gave up liquor for sobriety.
- Some gave up drugs for a clear mind and a clear conscience.

If you look at it in that light, **you did give up a lot!**

- In fact, I want to stop right here and say this: ***Hallelujah for the Cross!***

Also...

- ***Thank God I'm free, free, free from this world of sin.***
- ***Been washed in the blood of Jesus, Been born again.***
- ***Hallelujah, I'm saved, saved, saved by His wonderful power.***
- ***I'm so glad that I found that He would bring me out by His Holy Power.***

Look at what Paul is saying in verses 8 and 9 –

⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

If Paul could have known some of the toys that we have today, he might have used a child's punching bag as an illustration.

- The punch bag is filled with air and there is sand in the bottom of the bag.
- **You can punch it**, and it will keep on getting up for more.

- Paul pulls no punches about **this life as a believer**.
- He is **blatantly honest!**

We **DO** have troubles on every side –

- You have a sworn enemy from hell in the devil
- Your flesh is not dead, so it will arise to give you fits.

Yet Paul says **we are not distressed** – **WHY?????**

1 John 4:4 NIV - You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Just remember the promise we have from God's glorious Word:

Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV -

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and ***be content with what you have***, because God has said, ***“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”***

⁶So we say with confidence, ***“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”***

Vs. 5 -

- ***Let your conversation be without covetousness -***
- ***Be content:***
- ***He has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”***

Vs. 6 –

- ***So that we may boldly say,***
- ***The Lord is my helper***
- ***I will not fear what man may do to me.***

HOW TO FAIL AS A CHRISTIAN:

5 SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO FAIL AS A CHRISTIAN.

It is taken for granted that you realize **I do not want any one** to fail as a Christian.

However, if you **actively engage yourself** in the activities or **if you are inactive in any of these areas** that I will present to you today, **you will most certainly fail.**

If your **dedication to the Lord's service** has **fallen off**, **there is good news!**

- He stands ready to forgive us of our shortcomings
- And restore us to a right relationship with Him.

1 John 1:9 – **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Proverbs 28:13 is still as true today as it was on the day that Solomon, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, penned the words...

Proverbs 28:13 NIV - Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

- You will never succeed in life **if you try to hide your sins!**
- People who **conceal their sins** will not prosper.
- So, instead of trying to **whitewash your sins** and **get by with it**, **you can find mercy** by admitting and leaving them!

Let's discuss **the five things that will cause us to fail** as Christians...

1. DON'T PRAY

First of all, **if you want to fail** as a Christian, it is suggested that you **DON'T PRAY.**

- After all, ***what good is it to pray anyhow?***

Surely the Lord has too many people asking for **His time and attention** to be bothered by **YOUR request.**

- That is ***exactly how the*** **skeptics and modernists believe.**

But the Bible teaches...

II Chronicles 7:14 – if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Matthew 7:7-11 – “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will ***your Father*** in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

It's imperative that we pray if we are going to be successful in our Christian walk!

The words, “***your Father,***” in **Matthew 7:11** indicate *a sense of paternal care.*

- The Father ***really DOES care*** about us,
- And is concerned *with our needs!*

Jeremiah 33:3 – ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

I John 5:14 – This is the confidence we have in approaching God: ***that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.***

2. DON'T LOVE PEOPLE AS YOU OUGHT

The second suggestion I will offer that will cause you to be a failure as a Christian is this: **Don't love people as you ought.**

It's easy to allow *the hang-ups of others* to **hang you up** *when it comes to loving them.*

- It is a fact, ***people will not always do what you want them to do*** or believe they should do.
- And I have found that ***some people are easier to love*** than others.
- But if I am going to be **successful as a Christian, I must** love people.

Jesus tells us in John 13:34-35:

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

We must be proactive in loving our fellow disciples

- And we must be ***equally proactive in sharing that love*** with those who are not in the church.
- People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.
- We need to ***love people regardless*** of their faults, failures and fallings.
- There is not one person among us that has not at times ***been unlovable!***
- But it is our duty to one another to continue to give our love.

3. DON'T WATCH YOUR LIFE

The third suggestion in failing as a Christian is this: **Don't watch your life.**

In other words, **live any way you want**, giving no consideration to ***what it may be doing to others***.

- **Don't care** what others may think – after all, **it is YOUR life**.
- You are the captain of your own destiny and the ***master of your fate!***

It is vital that we Christians monitor what **we say, do, take in** and **put out**.

- ***We are walking sanctuaries or temples***.

We must watch what we eat, drink, inhale, or consume in any manner – **whether mental or physical**.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 16:13 – Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

Listen to Pastor: Your life is NOT your own! God purchased it with His own blood.

- It DOES MATTER what you do with this life!
- It DOES MATTER who your friends are!
- It DOES MATTER how you dress!
- It DOES MATTER what you say!

- ***Every part of your life belongs to God.***
- He is the owner of your life.
- You must watch those areas where questions may arise.
- You must do this because **you are being watched!**

POEM: I AM MY NEIGHBOR'S BIBLE

He reads me when we meet.

Today he reads me in my home,

Tomorrow in the street.

He may be a relative

Or friend or slight acquaintance be;

He may not even know my name,

Yes he is reading me.

4. SEEK GLORY FOR YOURSELF

The fourth suggestion I want to offer that will help you fail as a Christian is this:
Seek glory for yourself.

- Remind yourself that you are – ***Number One!***
- After all, **if you don't** blow your own horn, **who will blow it for you?**

You will certainly fail as a Christian if you seek recognition for anything and everything you do.

- You surely have a right to be upset ***if someone does not recognize you*** for your work in the church!

- These are the words and thoughts of the enemy!
- If you feel this way, you have a great spiritual problem!
- You are treading on **tremendously dangerous ground!**

If you want to be used in this church – in any area – just be faithful, and you will be used.

If it takes a particular job or recognition to make you faithful, then your motives are impure and you are working for the wrong master.

Colossians 3:17, 23-24 – ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

One's motivation for service for the Lord should be only for HIS glory and honor, NOT OURS!

John 12:43 – *For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*

Some men love people to notice them.

- ***They give*** to the church so people can praise them
- Jesus said very plainly in the Book of Matthew that ***they have their reward.***
- Some pray long and loud in public - Jesus said that ***they have their reward.***
- Some fast and let others know that they are fasting - Jesus told that crowd that they have their reward.

In fact, Jesus called them a name that still fits some of us even today, **HYPOCRITE!**

5. DON'T COME TO CHURCH

The fifth and final suggestion that will guarantee your failure as a Christian is this: **Don't come to church.**

After all, why do you need church anyway?

I have heard a host of excuses as to why people don't come to church.

However, one woman uttered my favorite reply:

“I don’t go to church, and this is my reason: if I go some of the time, it makes me want to go all the time. And since I can’t go all the time, it makes me feel guilty when I miss some of the time. So I don’t go any of the time, and this keeps me from feeling guilty about wanting to go all the time.”

- Now, that’s a **REAL excuse**, isn’t it?

What do you miss when you miss church?

- You miss the **worship** of the Lord.
- You miss the **Word** of the Lord.
- You miss the wonderful uplifting **music, fellowship and atmosphere** *in God’s house*.
- You miss **the working** of the Lord in **the lives of others**.

What may be worse than missing church is being at church and wishing that we were not here; or being so far removed from the service that *you cannot recall anything*** that happened at church!**

- You cannot recall **one song** that was sung.
- You cannot recall any of **the announcements**.
- You cannot remember **what the preacher preached** that day.

- **You are in spiritual Never-Never Land**, so to speak.
- **Everything else** **is more important** than church!

Listen to what God’s Word has to say about missing church:

Hebrews 10:25 – not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25 (TEV) – *Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.*

Hebrews 10:25 (MSG) – *Not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.*

CLOSE: Maybe you are failing in your Christian life.

- If so, I have good news for you today!
- You don't have to continue failing.
- In fact, everything you need in this life as a Christian is found in the pages of this BOOK.

If you are failing in your Christian life, it is time to re-enlist!

- Go to someone who is “**pressing on**” and ask for help.
- Ask that person to pray for you.

Remember, “*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,*” (James 5:16).

Ask the Lord for strength and courage to begin again.

Remember, it is always too soon to quit, and never too late to begin again!

The Lord is far more interested in your getting back on track than you are.

- He will be right there to help.
- He is waiting for you to reach out.

Get in the Word of God! - John 17:17 – *Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy Word is truth.*

Don't expect to be able to do too much too soon.

- Your **capacity for the Word** may have shrunk temporarily.
- You may be vulnerable to some temptation that will continue to plague you for a while.
- **Don't be discouraged! - Nothing of worth comes easy!**
- Say it - “*By the grace of God, I will come back!*”

Remember that you are a child of God and victory is rightfully yours.

- **Trust God** to give you the victory.

PRAISE TEAM:

Claim - **I Corinthians 15:57** – But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

