

# The New Life Profile

## the 30 essentials of a maturing and fruitful follower of Christ

*“My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth **until Christ is formed in you**, how I wish I could be with you now.”*

The words of the apostle Paul recorded in Galatians 4:19-20 speak of the primary mission of the church – to see a person establish an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ that grows and develops until Christ is seen in them. The Christian life is a journey! *The New Life Profile* has been created to help guide us in that journey. It answers the question:

**“What specifically does a follower of Christ look like?”**

## Ten Essential Beliefs

One Holy and Personal God: We believe the God of the Bible is the only true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who is intimately involved in and cares about our daily lives.

**Ps. 121:1,2** *I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

**2 Cor. 13:14** *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Fallen Humanity and Creation: We believe the perfect creation of God is now in a fallen state as a consequence of man’s deliberate violation of God’s command.

**Genesis 3:17-19** *God said, “Because you...ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you...and you will return to the ground...for dust you are and to dust you will return.*

**Gen 1:31** *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.*

Necessity of Repentance: We believe that without repentance from sin, fallen man cannot have fellowship with a holy and righteous God.

**Acts 3:19** *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

**Luke 13:3,5** *Unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those 18 who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! Unless you repent, you too will all perish.”*

Salvation by Grace: We believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Eph. 2:8,9** *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Authority of the Bible: We believe the Bible, God’s timeless love story to humanity, is the inspired, trustworthy Word of God and has the right to command our lives.

**2 Tim. 3:16,17** *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Identity in Christ: We believe those persons who come into a right relationship with God become both the children of God and the righteousness of God.

**John 1:12** *To all who received him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

**2 Cor. 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**The Church:** We believe the church, the community of believers, is the primary catalyst for accomplishing God's purposes on earth today.

**Eph. 4:15-16** *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

**Expectancy of the Supernatural:** We believe the supernatural to be the norm rather than the exception.

**John 14:12** *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

**Simplicity:** We believe that living simple lives helps us to keep focused on our purpose.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4** *Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.*

**Eternity:** We believe there is a heaven and a hell and Jesus Christ is returning to judge humanity and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**John 14:1-2** *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”*

**Rev 21:1-4** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

**Rev 20:15** *If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

## Ten Essential Disciplines

**Prayer:** We commune [converse] with God out of a passionate love for Him in humble awareness of our need.

**Ps. 66:17-20** *I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!*

**Fasting:** We periodically abstain from some regular necessity of life in order to focus on God and His priorities in our lives.

**Matt. 6:16** *When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.*

**Solitude / Meditation:** We periodically remove ourselves from the routine and the relationships of our lives in order to focus on hearing from God.

**Luke 6:12** *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.*

**Worship / Praise:** We worship God for who He is and praise Him for what He is doing for us.

**Ps. 95:1-3** *Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.*

**Bible Study:** We study the Bible to know God and to discover His life-transforming truth.

**Heb. 4:12** *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Spiritual Gifts:** We know and use our spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

**Rom. 12:4-6** *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us.*

**Biblical Community:** We fellowship with one another to accomplish God's purposes in our lives, our families, and in the world around us.

**Acts 2:44-47** *All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.*

**Evangelism:** We courageously share with others the faith and hope we have in Jesus Christ.

**Eph. 6:19,20** *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

**Service:** We willingly give away our time for the purposes of God's kingdom.

**Col. 3:17** *And 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.*

**Giving Away Our Money:** We joyfully give away our money for the purposes of God's kingdom.

**2 Cor. 8:7** *But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

## Ten Essential Virtues

**Love/Compassion:** We sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**1 John 4:10-12** *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

**Ps. 82:3,4** *Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

**Joy:** We have inner contentment and purpose in spite of our circumstances.

**John 15:11** *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

**Peace:** We trust Christ to displace anxiety and worry at the center of our lives.

**Phil. 4:6,7** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

**Patience:** We are patient with one another just as Christ is patient with us.

**Proverbs 14:29** *A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.*

**Kindness/Goodness/Gentleness:** We look for the best in each other, and always do our best to bring it out.

**1 Thes. 5:15** *Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.*

**Self-Control:** We have been given power and strength to say "no" to sin so we may live holy lives.

**Titus 2:11-12** *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.*

Humility: We choose to esteem others above ourselves.

**Phil 2:3,4** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Hope: We live lives of hope based on the promises and truth of the Word of God.

**Romans 5:5** *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.*

**Titus 1:2** *A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.*

Gratefulness: We live our lives with an awareness of our indebtedness to Christ.

**Hebrews 12:28-29** *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for God is a consuming fire.*

Courageous Faith: We trust God's ways rather than our own.

**Proverbs 3:5,6** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*