

A NORMAL CHRISTIAN

TEXT: I Corinthians 4:9-17

INTRO:

A. What is a NORMAL Christian?

1. What do Christians look like? How do they act? Is there a *Biblical model* for a Christian?
2. Are text teaches us that there is as a WAY Christians should be!
 - a. Those that claim to be Christians have an example to follow.

B. Paul had a burden for the Christians in Corinth.

1. He was there father in the faith (v.15).
 - a. Here we have the truth about the use of the gospel in the new birth!
2. Paul desires that the Corinthians to follow his example (v.16).
 - a. Here we have the truth about the need of an EXAMPLE to follow after the new birth.
 - b. Paul says look at my Christian life if you would know how to live as a Christian.

C. Paul is a *divine* example of what a NORMAL Christian should be.

1. Under *inspiration* of God, Paul presents himself as the NORMAL Christian (I Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17-21).
 - a. How will you live your life *Christian*?
 - b. *How* will you put your Christianity to the test?
2. Would you DIE like this Christian died (II Tim. 4:7-8)?
 - a. Then you must learn to live like this Christian lived!
3. Paul is a Norman Christian , anything less is abnormal, faulty, and grieves that Holy Spirit!

D. A look at this normal Christian to see what is normal in the Christian Life.

I. THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN MAKES A FULL SURRENDER WHEN HE IS BORN OF GOD (Acts 9:1-8).

A. Paul was arrested by divine grace on the Road to Damascus.

1. Paul was a great sinner under the condemning influence of the law.
 - a. He was kicking against the pricks of the message of Stephen (Acts 9:5; 7:51-8:3 vs.53-54).
 - b. Jesus made the message of Stephen effectual ” Oh the effect that it had on Paul!

B. Effectual Grace has LIFE CHANGING EFFECTS (Acts. 9:6).

1. When a person is truly born again he THEN has a willingness to fully surrender (Psa. 110:3; Jn. 10:27).
 - a. The FIRST response to Saving Grace is Lord, what will thou have me to do ”..
 - b. That is NORMAL! ANYTHING less is abnormal!

II. THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN IS SATISFIED WITH JESUS ONLY.

A. What happens when a man is genuinely saved?

1. Does *everything* change for the better? Be careful here!
2. I mean does ever thing become easier? Does all disease end? Does all trouble stop?

B. Paul had some drastic things happen to him at his conversion!

1. At his conversion Paul gained spiritual sight, but he lost physical sight (Acts 9:8-9).
 - a. This was in the VERY HOUR of his conversion!
 - b. He had no *immediate* promise or hope of regaining his sight!

C. But Paul had one thing Paul has the LORD JESUS CHRIST!

1. When bad things (that the way we see them) happen to the Christian it is NORMAL for him to TRUST IN Christ that much more! (Job 13:15-16; II Cor. 12:9-10).
 - a. A surrendered life believes in the sovereignty of God
2. A *normal* Christian is so satisfied with Jesus presence that he needs no other blessings!

III. THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN PRAYS FREQUENTLY.

A. Behold, he prayeth (Acts 9:11)!

1. What a testimony to Paul's new found relationship with Jesus!
2. This testimony was words of encouragement to Ananias (Acts 9:10-11).

B. Do your pray? Prayer is NORMAL activity for a genuine Christian!

1. Do you continue in prayer? Could it be said of you "_____ prayeth?"
2. Paul the NORMAL Christian PRAYED (Col. 1:9; II Tim. 1:3).

IV. THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN SPEAKS WITH HIS MOUTH WHAT HE BELIEVES IN HIS HEART.

A. And straightway he preached Christ (Acts 9:20).

1. When Paul was converted his lips were converted (Acts 9:1 with Acts 9:20).
2. It is NORMAL for a *newly converted* Christian to desire to tell others of Christ (Jn.1:40-42, 43-45; 4:25-29, 39).

B. A truly converted Christian will have Christ on his lips because he has Christ IN HIS HEART (Matt. 12:34-35; Rom. 10:9-11).

1. Those that believe on him SHALL NOT BE ASHAMED!
2. It's NORMAL for Christians to make public professions of their faith!

CON:

A. Are you a normal Christian?

1. Have you ever had a time of FULL SURRENDER?
2. Was Jesus ALONE enough for you?
3. Did you begin to pray?
4. Did you confess Him with your mouth?
5. Christian, what has changed?

B. Are you a Christian?

1. You are not one if you have not had some NORMAL Christian experiences?
2. May today be your day of full surrender!
3. May Jesus Alone be enough for you!
4. May your life begin to be marked by prayer!
5. May you CONFESS HIM as your Saviour!
6. This is NORMAL! anything less is abnormal, faulty, and grieves that Holy Spirit!