

Can Christians be different than the World and Still Participate in “Worldly” Activities, Such as Going to Bars?

I will start this article by commenting on the topic of doubt, as well as doubting ones Christianity in general. For instance, it is not uncommon for people who have first become Christians to eventually doubt whether or not they are really saved. I believe this happens because the emotions we first feel after accepting Jesus into our hearts is amazing, and when that spiritual high is gone and normal life returns, we feel as though we are again in the dark.

As Christians, we need to realize that the emotional high we feel when first accepting Jesus will, unfortunately, pass. This is not because he does not love us anymore, but because it is our duty to grow up in Christ and do His will.

Nevertheless, the Bible tells us that once we accept Christ we can be assured that we become “new creations” in Him having eternal live. (2 Corinthians, 5:17, and Galatians 1, 6:15, 1John 5:13)

¹⁷“Therefore if any man be in Christ ,he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”. 2Corinthians 5:17

¹⁵“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.” Galatians 6:15

¹³“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1John 5:13

This is why Jesus refers to us as being “born again” when we accept Christ into our hearts.

³Jesus answered and said unto him “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God .“ John 3:3.

John, 1:12 states that everyone who receives Jesus Christ into their life is a new child of God, and He welcomes you with open arms. As a result, once we accept Christ, we are His children, whether we feel “Christian” or not, we are his.

¹²“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God ,even to them that believe on his name :“ John 1:12

Scripture further evidences this by noting to us of what happens to our lives when we accept Christ, thus, becoming born again as a new believer in Christ Jesus.

1. When we accept Christ, we “receive him” and become children of God. (*John1:12*)
2. When we become children of God, we are new creatures in Him and the old things pass away. (*2 Corinthians, 5:17*)

So, the interesting point here is what the Bible means by saying the old has passed away. Furthermore, what exactly is the old creature?

If we are to live as new creatures in Jesus Christ, we need to understand what is meant by the “old man” passing away. The Bible does, however, give us various definitions of who the old man is, the scripture I will cite appears to be sufficient enough to explain who the “old man” is, and what he did.

Romans 1:18-31 says that the old man:

1. Holds truth in unrighteousness
2. Does not glorify God
3. Is not thankful for what one has
4. Has vain imaginations
5. Possesses a foolish heart
6. Professes to be wise
7. Manipulates God’s truth using the Bible
8. Gives into the lusts of his own heart
9. Dishonor their own bodies
10. Changes the truth into a lie. *See also. Isaiah 5:20.*
11. Has vile affections, such as homosexuality
12. Has a reprobate mind
13. Is unrighteous
14. Fornicates
15. Is wicked
16. Is covetous
17. Is malicious
18. Is full of envy
19. Murders
20. Debate - engaging in strife or combat
21. Is deceitful
22. Is malicious, like possessing intense ill will or hatred
23. Gossips
24. Is a backbiter
25. Is a hater of God
26. Is spiteful
27. Is proud
28. Boasts
29. Is an inventor of evil things
30. Is disobedient to his parents
31. Has no reverent understanding of the Bible
32. Is a covenant breaker
33. Has no natural affection
34. He is implacable, which means impossible to appease or incapable of being pacified
35. Is unmerciful
36. Does not know God’s judgment by not knowing the Torah(God’s Law).
37. Takes pleasure in doing evil things

It is easy to see that there are 37 specific things that define who the old man is, and this is just according to the book of Romans. Moreover, we are told not to accompany ourselves with men who do the following.

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an Extortioner ;with such an one no not to eat. 1Corinthians 5:11.

According to the Bible, it appears as though God wants His people to avoid the following types of persons:

1. Fornicators
2. Covetous persons
3. Idolaters
4. Railers, which is one who scoffs, insults, censures, or reproaches with opprobrious language. (Definition of Opprobrious: one who expresses contemptuous reproach, or is scornful and abusive).
5. Drunkards
6. Extortioners

Moreover, in the next chapter of *1 Corinthians*, Paul specifies who unbelievers are and what they do.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind ,¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor Extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God¹¹ .And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God). 1Corinthians 6:9-11.

This text of the scripture appears to specify the following types of persons:

1. Those who are unrighteousness will not inherit the kingdom of God.
2. Fornicators
3. Idolaters
4. Adulterers
5. Effeminate
6. Abusers of themselves with mankind (homosexuality)
7. Thieves
8. Covetous
9. Drunkards
10. Revilers
11. Extortioners

Now that we have a pretty good idea of what the old man is as defined by *Romans* and *1Corinthians*, the next question to ask is whether or not it is ok for Christians to participate in worldly activities, such as going to bars.

I can only assume that the appropriate question would be “What good for Christ and His kingdom can come from a Christian going to a bar?” or simple “What good can come from going to a bar?”

First, it should first be understood that Christianity is about believing in Jesus Christ and his shed blood (faith), and then producing works displayed through our lives that are the fruits of our faith in him. (*John 2, 18, 2:26, and 7:20*)

Second, there are people living all around us who desperately need Christ in their lives. So, what will they think if they see a Bible believing Christian participating in worldly activities such as going to bars, and other places associated with sin?

This should be contemplated by Christians because it has everything to do with the image of Christ wants us to pass onto others.

“Abstain from all appearance of evil”. 1Thessalonians, 5:22

Furthermore, *Peter, 1:14-16*, states that *“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance :But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation ;Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Even though we may be serious about our Christian walk inwardly, we must also **appear** serious outwardly as well. If we profess to be a Christian, yet live in the place of the old man, those who are seeking the Lord may not see God’s changes in us and die in their sins. Furthermore, if we live like the old man (having the same morality, i.e. what we say [swearing], and how we behave) the unbelievers around us, those who may truly be seeking the Lord God may not see the Gospel at work in our lives and so not desire to know Jesus Christ therefore dieing in their sins.

Someone once quoted that *“Your life is the only Bible some people read”*. Those who are not believers in Christ perceive Christians that way, so our Christian witness in our everyday actions should rightfully resemble what Christ would do while he lived here as a man.

There are some situations in which a Christian may perceive as though he is not committing sin, such as going to bars. Likewise, Christians may not be convicted by the Holy Spirit in conducting in such activities. However, it is important to remember that our Christian walk is not just about us as individuals, but about witnessing to every lost soul who may be influenced in their decision to accept Christ through our individual actions.

We were given a command in *Mark 16:15* that we are to *“go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*. “Going out into the world” includes our daily lives and how we conduct it.

Now, the question remains, “Can you conduct yourself in an otherwise worldly activity, but still maintain an image of Christ that witnesses to the world?”

This is a very serious issue in light of what Jesus did by dying for us, as well as what He has commanded us to do.

Mark, 16:15, And he said unto them:

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” .

by MATSATI

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