

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10**

Store In My Heart John 14:15,21,23-24

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

Jesus makes his expectations clear about love and obedience. They are connected in such a way that one cannot truly exist without the other. He also connects love and obedience to our relationship with the Father.

Man cannot expect anything from God if the love he claims does not include the necessity of obedience to His Word.



What Is Your Testimony?

U. Buckley

Testimony can be defined as the declaration or presentation of evidence that show something as being true. The Greek word is 'martureo' meaning to be a witness; bear record; be well reported of.

The Hebrew writer wrote in **Hebrews 11:5**, "*By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, 'and was not found, because God had taken him'; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*"

Some time ago I heard someone ask this question, 'If you were put on trial today for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?'

My testimony is the life that I live in full view of all men that demonstrate where I stand with God and His standards. While we do not live just to be seen, how we live will be seen. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:14-15**, "*You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*" He went on to say in **Vs.16**, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.*"

Notice Jesus said, "*...that they may see your good works...*" [**Ephesians 2:10**].

Consider with me, two things that serve as testimony of our being in a good relationship with the Lord. The first would be a changed life. Paul wrote in **2Corinthians 5:17**, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*" Peter wrote in **1Peter 4:3-4**, "*For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in*

doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lust, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.” They will speak evil of you because they see a difference.

Another item of testimony is our love for one another. Jesus said in **John 13:34-35**, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Love is a demonstration of our imitation of God. Paul wrote in **Ephesians 5:1-2**, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” Notice **1John 4:11**, “Beloved, if God so loved us we also ought to love one another”.

What is the testimony of your life? When people see you, do they see evidence of one walking with God? Let each of us strive to have it said of us that which was said of Enoch, ‘He had this testimony, that he pleased God’.

(Brother Buckley is an elder at the Dowlen Rd congregation in Beaumont, TX, where Reuben Prevost serves as a preacher. I find his weekly posts on Facebook under the title “A Shepherd’s Thought” to be helpful and instructive. His reminder above that we are living testimony of God’s work in our hearts should give us pause. We should consider our activities and words in light of this message.

Let us also remember that we are to verbally testify of Christ as we find opportunity as Peter has instructed. **1Peter 3:14-15** “... Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ...” DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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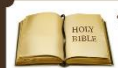
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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Jim Soliday was admitted to St Vincent Friday with a very low heart rate. He was released Saturday and will see his cardiologist this week to determine the cause.

Ruben Keisler is scheduled for heart bypass surgery July 5th.

Brenda Keisler is dealing with hip pain

Gloria Hurst should have her stiches removed this week.

Paula Laubach has an appointment scheduled to see about her nerve irritation.

Dan & JoBeth Henderson plan to be in Beaumont, TX Thursday and Friday.

Sunday Evening – **Nehemiah 6:15** Wednesday - **John 5:10**