

Is Christianity Hard Or Easy? 4/26/2020

Teague Bible Church

1. Write down a few statements that express how some unbelievers view the Christian life, that is, what are some of their misconceptions?

Example: Just say “no” to anything that is fun. A good Christian is known by how many church services he goes to and how many rituals he observes. Big bible, wears a cross, dresses up. Must be such a burden to fight sin all the time.

2. Could you explain this bumper sticker seen on the cars of some Christians?

“BORN ONCE, DIE TWICE : BORN TWICE , DIE ONCE” John 3

3. How many natures ?

Read these: Galatians 2:20, 5:16-20 II Corinthians 5:14-17 Romans 6: 1-14
Ephesians 4:22-24 Colossians 3:1-11 I Corinthians 2: 14-16
Romans 8:6-17

Galatians 2:20, 5:16-26 (Will read this one today)

Question: Does Paul think, that we have an old, sinful, natural self, and then also, a new self that wants to please Christ? (Yes? / No?)

Question: Does he think that we just resist bad things, and excel in doing good things with the resources we are born with naturally? (Yes? / No?)

4. The truth: the Christian life is hard and easy.

Remember we have two natures if we are Christians.

To actually do the right thing, with the right motivation; that is, a motivation that pleases God, is considered somewhat **easy** if you have the power to do it.

It actual feels like you are being “carried along” at times!

Because you have a new nature, which gives new power, you can do the things that please God, and feel great about it, all at the same time.

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God who is at work in you, both to will (gives you desire to do it) and to work (gives you the power to do it) for His good pleasure.”

You can see how, if His will is fulfilled in you, then the joy He has through your obedience, will be your joy also. Wow! We have the desire to do it, the power to do it, and receive the joy from the will of God being done in and through us!

John 17:13 “But now I come to You: and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.”

Philippians 4:13 “**I can do** (shall have power to prevail, {ischuo}) **all things through Christ** (living out of the new nature) **who strengthens me.**” {Our word “Dynamite” endunamounti}”

Example: Mom helping kids with a big event in their life.

Graduation/Banquet/ Prom/ Wedding

(One mom told me this; after all the work done for their girl’s wedding.)

“I am tired, but it is the best kind of tired I have ever had.”

Question: Can any mom here explain what this person meant by a “good kind of tired?”

**KEY VERSES: Contrasting Matthew 10: 38-39 (Hard stuff)
with Matthew 11:28-30 (Easy Stuff)**

Luke 9:23-24 Clarifies the idea of what “taking up your cross” means.
It means to deny self-interest and to do it daily.

An unbeliever would conclude that, what we have here, from the same book, is an open contradiction!

However, ever believer just smiles about it, knowing it is the real open secret of living the joy-filled Christian life. No contradiction at all!

Question: How would you explain this paradox?

Example: Diving off the high –diving board. Can’t be done in little stages or it is not the experience of diving off the high-board at all!. Just jump in!

Ex. Galatians 5: 16 , 25 Romans 12:1-2 Go ahead and jump!

Final thought: Getting to the point of surrender is the **hard part**; the actual doing is **much easier**.

Can you see now why the Scripture calls us to surrender **before** we can live out a renewed mind? **Romans 12:1-2**

Jesus said: (John 6:63) “ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and are life.”