

## A Call to A Better Life (by Bruce Hall)

### Introduction

1. Deciding to follow and obey Christ can be a difficult decision
2. One thing that consistently comes up is the kind of life a Christian must lead
3. Jesus has not left us without a description of that life
4. He described it for those asking the same question
5. Study Matthew 5, 6, 7 and see Jesus' description of the life of a Christian

### I. A Life With a Spiritual Focus

#### A. The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3-10

1. The blessed are those who understand their spiritual condition
2. A deep understanding of their need for God is necessary to have the spiritual focus required of a Christian

#### B. A light shining in a dark world - Matthew 5:13-16

1. Our spiritual nature and interest will be clearly visible to others
2. God is glorified by our actions and attitudes

#### C. Spiritual treasures - Matthew 6:19-21

1. The focus is laying up treasures in heaven
2. Eternal treasures are the focus of this better life

#### D. Spiritual kingdom - Matthew 6:25-34

1. The kingdom comes first
2. The worry of the world is put aside to focus on spiritual things

### II. A Life of Purity

#### A. Regarding murder - Matthew 5:21-26

1. Certainly murder is condemned
2. But the attitudes that would lead me to murder are condemned
3. My responsibility is to correct things that are wrong

#### B. Regarding adultery - Matthew 5:27-30

1. Adultery is condemned
2. But, again, the attitudes leading to adultery are also condemned

#### C. Regarding marriage - Matthew 5:31-32

1. The marriage vow is important and permanent
2. To violate the marriage vow is to violate our relationship with God

#### D. Regarding swearing - Matthew 5:33-37

1. Do not swear at all
2. Be honest in all that we say

#### E. All focused on purity from the inside out

1. Not focused simply on outward purity but rather a focus on purity that is genuinely from the heart
2. This life is based on service from the heart

### III. A Life With God

#### A. Awareness of God

1. In our good deeds - Matthew 6:1-4
2. In our prayers - Matthew 6:5-6
3. In our fasting - Matthew 6:16-18

#### B. God's awareness of us

1. He sees in secret - Matthew 6:4, 6, 18
2. He knows our needs - Matthew 6:8, 32

#### C. A picture of a wonderful, close relationship between a Father and a child

### IV. A Life of Service

#### A. Service to God - Matthew 7:21-23

1. Based on obedience
2. Good intentions are not enough

#### B. Service that leads to stability - Matthew 7:24-27

1. Through hearing and obeying stability is found
2. Stability to face the wind and waves of life and remain solid and strong

## Conclusion

1. Jesus is offering us a wonderful opportunity
2. He presents to us a beautiful picture of the life of His followers
3. This message designed to persuade and identify the characteristics of His followers
4. It is a good life. A life with difficulty from time to time, yet a good life
5. It is a life of holiness, set apart to do the will of God
6. And remember, it is the way that leads to eternal life