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What's So Cool About Being Christian?

(Why I am a Christian rather than something else)

(SERIES: **Loving God Without Becoming An A. S. K.** : 03 of 11)
by Dr. David Foster

"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. "I am the Vine, you are the branches. **When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. SEPARATED, YOU CAN'T PRODUCE A THING.**"
(John 15:4-5 Msg)

"Therefore, THERE IS NOW NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. **YOU, HOWEVER, ARE CONTROLLED NOT BY THE SINFUL NATURE BUT BY THE SPIRIT**, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." (Rom 8:1-9 NIV)

The 3 privileges of the J-life

The privilege to **know His heart.**

"A psalm. For giving thanks. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. **For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**" (Psa 100 NIV)

The privilege to **trust His love.**

The privilege to **follow His lead.**

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV)

The 7 Sure Signs Of The J-Life

"Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. **THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE BURGEONS!** Look at it!" (2 Cor. 5:17; Msg)

A sure sign of the J-life is **honesty.**

"Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Don't toss me aside, banished forever from your presence. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you" (Ps. 51:10-12, LB).

A sure sign of the J-life is **trust.**

A sure sign of the J-life is **freedom.**

A sure sign of the J-life is **joy.**

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song." (Psa 28:7 NIV)

A sure sign of the J-life is **generosity.**

"For **God so loved the world that he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NIV)

"Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. **GENEROSITY BEGETS GENEROSITY**" (Luke 6:38, The Message).

A sure sign of the J-life is **humility.**

A sure sign of the J-life is **hunger.**

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6, NIV).

"Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?' **'MY FOOD,' SAID JESUS, 'IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME AND TO FINISH HIS WORK.'**" (John 4:31-34 NIV)