

- I. Defining a Christian:**
 - A. Believes in Christ – the Christ of the Bible.**
 - B. Trusts in Christ – for his/her salvation.**
 - C. Submits to Christ – obeys Christ’s commands.**

- II. Living the Christian Life.**
 - A. Christianity is a way of life – Christ’s way of life.**
 - B. While all of us fall short of this ideal life (see Rom. 3:23), we must continue our pursuit of it ...we must constantly strive to make the way of the Lord our way of life.**

- III. Christian Life Specifics.**
 - A. Love sincerely (v.9) – the love in question is “agape” love, the kind of love Jesus has for us; people need to hear about love and see what love looks like (see 1 John 3:18).**
 - B. Hate sin (v.9) – stand up for what’s right (biblical absolutes) and speak out against evil.**
 - C. Give of yourself to others (v.10).**
 - D. Maintain your spiritual fervor by serving others (v.11).**
 - E. Be joyful always, persevere under trial, and pray continually (v.12; also 1 Thess. 5:16,17 and James 1:2-4).**
 - F. Be gracious and hospitable (v.13).**
 - G. Pray for those who mistreat you (v.14 and Luke 6:27,28).**
 - H. Rejoice and mourn with one another (v.15 and Ecc. 3:4).**
 - I. Be humble and give people “first class” treatment (v.16).**
 - J. Forget about “getting even” (v.17); react God’s way; live by faith - do what you know you should do, trusting that God will make you feel good about doing it.**
 - K. As much as possible, live a life of peace (v.18).**
 - L. Be good to people and let the results up to God; in due time people will reap what they sow (v.19-21 and Gal. 6:7,8).**

- IV. Conclusion.**
 - A. If we truly love the Lord, we will diligently pursue the Christ-like life (see Mark 12:30).**
 - B. If we diligently pursue the Christ-like life, we will experience life at its best.**