

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

HOLINESS IN DEVOTION TO GOD



Galatians 3:26-28 ^{NIV}

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.





CONCERNING OUR SITUATION

The Principle
Example One
Example Two

1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 24 NIV

¹⁷ Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

²⁰ Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

²⁴ Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.



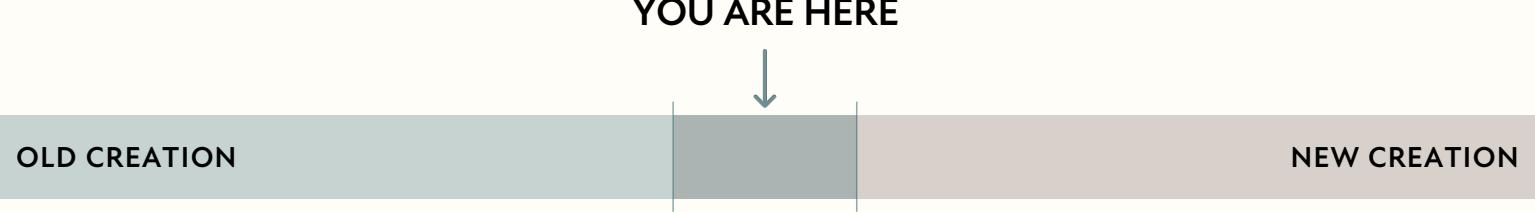


“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

- THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 NIV

What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not;³⁰ those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep;³¹ those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.





Matthew 5:11-12 NIV

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

“ ”

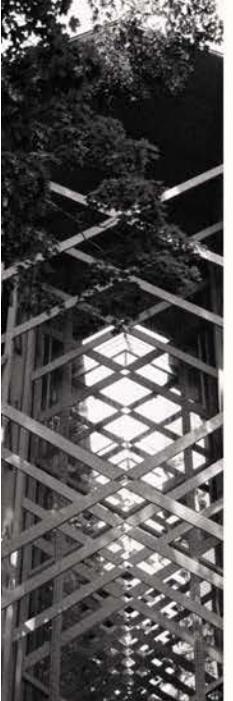
Who decides what counts as an improvement or as progress in humanity? It can be none other than “us,” human beings in our current state. But these are the very humans who need improving. So on what basis should we trust our own judgment about what aspects of humanity should be improved?...

- C. S. LEWIS

“ ”

...To compound this, the “we” who decides what counts as improvement is not humanity in general but almost certainly a very particular group of humans: the plan is to subject us all to a white, middle-class, modern Western male view of the “perfect” human. The prospect of one group thus defining improvement for all “is like a man’s right eye claiming to rule him, or his left leg to run away with him. It is madness.

- C. S. LEWIS



CONCERNING OUR SITUATION

The Principle
Example One
Example Two

1 Corinthians 7:18-19 NIV

Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised.¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts.



“ ”

The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's "own," or "real" life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life—the life God is sending one day by day...

- C. S. LEWIS



CONCERNING OUR SITUATION

The Principle
Example One
Example Two

1 Corinthians 7:21-23 ^{NIV}

Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so.²² For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave.²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.



Luke 4:42-44 NIV

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.⁴³ But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.



James 2:14-17 NIV

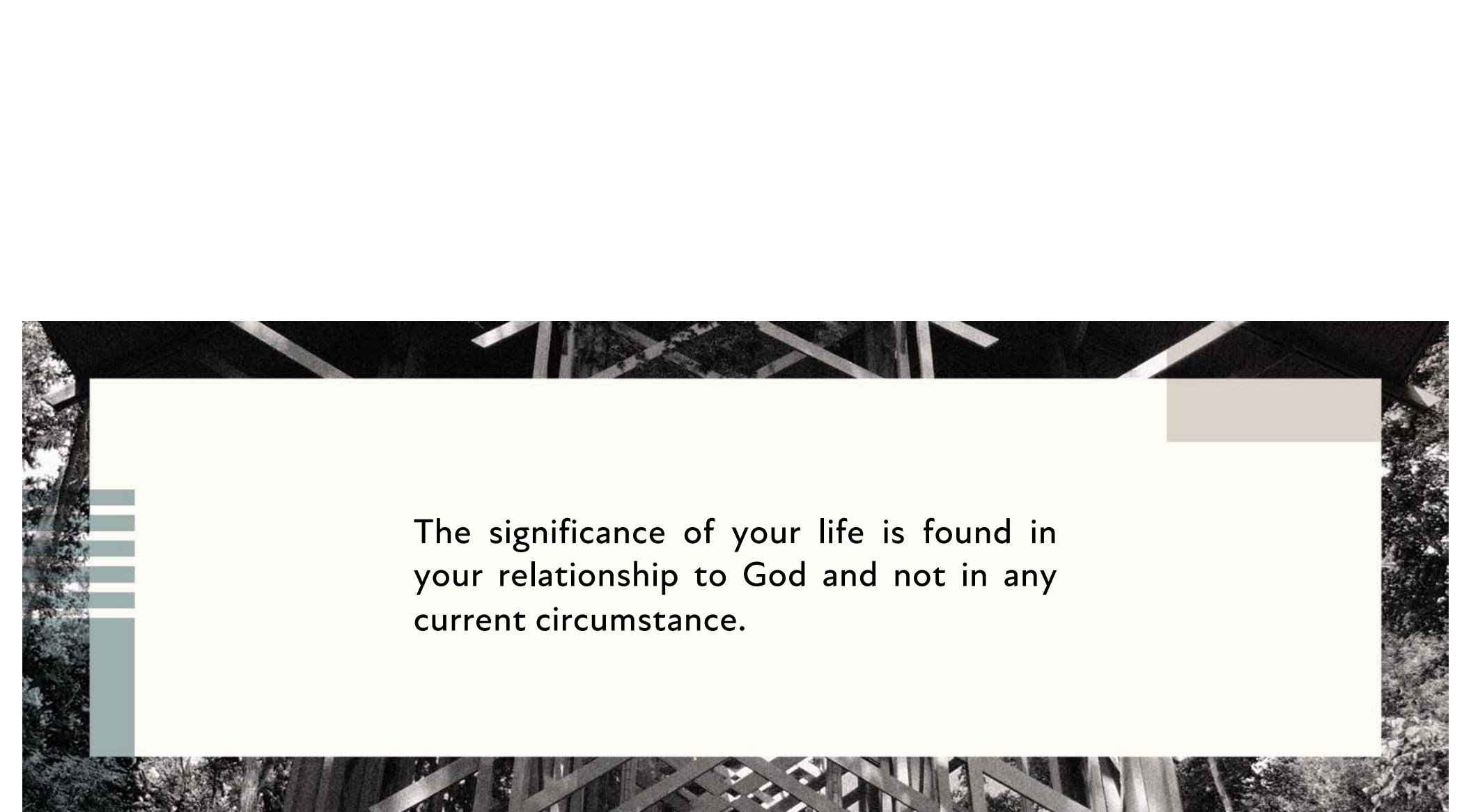
What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.



The church exists to help people become reconciled to God and each other, not primarily to change their temporary circumstances.

However, those who have been reconciled to God will always love others in tangible ways.





The significance of your life is found in
your relationship to God and not in any
current circumstance.