

Love Your Friend to Faith

Becoming a Credible Christian

Participant's Handout

The purpose of this module is to:

- **Reflect the humble character of Jesus.**
- **Keep the unity of the Spirit in peace.**
- **Apply the grace-gifts in building up the body of Christ.**

Objectives :

- To live a worthy and virtuous life.
- To keep the unity of the Spirit.
- To apply the grace- gifts God gives.

A. Introduction

Illustrations:

- * "You Christians can't agree on what you believe. The Nazarenes fight with the Baptists; the Lutherans with the Catholics, and a whole bunch disdain the Charismatics" criticized one angry person.
- * "I'm not going to any church that is known for its list of 'don'ts'."

1. The question asked in these incidences is "Who is right?"
2. The scriptures do not answer the question of who is right, but the Bible does tell us who is credible.
3. Here are ways you can tell if a person is an authentic Christian.
4. A _____ lives a worthy and virtuous life.

B. _____ a worthy life

1. We are to live a life of _____.
2. We are _____ from sin to right living.

The circumstances of life may not reflect the worthiness of a person. Paul, for example, was a prisoner accused of causing problems.

C. _____ a virtuous life.

1. We are to be _____.

We laugh when someone quips, "I sure am proud of my humility."

a. _____ means to be teachable.

b. Humility allows someone else to act as an authority or a
without undermining.

2. We are to be _____.

3. We are to be _____.

a. Becoming irritated and expressing annoyance injures _____.

b. We are to _____ relationships.

D. Because God is _____.

1. We who would choose to be like Him will be _____.

2. This passage does not call for _____.

3. Be _____, God enjoys variety.

4. God is over all; He is in charge of _____ people not tearing them
apart.

E. Because we are _____ together through peace.

1. _____ divides; peace unites.

2. Keeping peace requires _____.

F. _____ gives a variety of gifts.

1. Apostles are sent by God with special powers and for specific _____.

2. Prophets _____ the truth of God.

3. Evangelists call people to _____.

4. _____ care for a flock of people.

5. Teachers instruct _____ about God.

G. _____ purposes are to:

1. prepare people to _____.
2. _____ the body of Christ .
3. unite people in faith and _____ .
4. bring _____ to maturity.

H. CONCLUSION:

1. Believers and unbelievers can discern who the credible Christians are by how they live, treat people, and build up the church.
2. What about those churches who disagree with each other?
 - a. God is not bothered by our disagreements unless we divide, become unloving or fail to build up the body of Christ.
 - b. Can we point to our differences? Yes, but we are not to fight.
3. For all of us who wish to lead other people to Jesus, let us live a life worthy of God's call to holiness.

Small Group Activities

1. What are the Christian virtues that positively impress unbelievers?

2. How does our church handle conflict among church members?

1 excellent-----10 poorly

3. How can we better restore broken relationships?

4. Who are some of the best peace-makers in our church?

5. How can we become like them?

6. How do you evaluate your own personal spiritual life on each of these virtues?

(Rank on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being highest to 5 being the lowest.)

Action Planning/Reporting

Evaluate your own life. Are there some areas where I need to work in my own life to be a credible Christian?

How can I use the strengths of those areas?

How well do I do I use my spiritual gifts (e.g. service, mercy, faith) among unbelievers/non-Christians?

List ways you find that are easy and natural for you to serve people around you?

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____ 8. _____

9. _____ 10. _____