

## What Is The Christian Life?

1. The following are different views of the Christian life:

- a. Do you think that there is a “secret” to the Christian life that ends the struggle and makes life easy sailing?
- b. Have you resigned yourself to failure as a Christian because it seems too hard to change?
- c. Have you ever become a “disciple,” someone consciously changing, learning how to think and act like Jesus Christ in every situation in life?
- d. When you become aware of a shortcoming in your life, do you treat it as a great crisis, either to excuse or to despair over or to seek instantaneous perfection and deliverance?

2. Read this description of the normal Christian life:

“This life, therefore, is not righteousness but growth in righteousness,  
not health by healing,  
not being but becoming,  
not rest but exercise.  
We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it;  
the process is not yet finished but it is going on;  
this is not the end but it is the road.  
All does not yet gleam in glory but all is being purified.”

-Martin Luther

- a. What is this life like?

- b. What promises does this hold out, both for the present and for the future?
  - c. Is this your view of the Christian life? Where are you challenged? Where are you encouraged?
  - d. How specifically do you need to change?
3. Luther wrote what he wrote because he had studied the Bible. Study the following passages of Scripture: James 1:2-5; Philippians 1:6; 1:9; 2 Peter 1:3-11. Ask of each passage the same questions you asked in the previous section.
- a. What is this life like?
  - b. What promises does this hold out, both for the present and for the future?
  - c. Is this your view of the Christian life? Where are you challenged? Where are you encouraged?
  - d. How specifically do you need to change?