

## **Ten Rules for the Christian Life**

Posted by Bob Young

It seems that I have devoted much of 2010 to writing lists of ten. This list seeks to address the shape of the true disciple, one who is fully devoted to Christ. The devoted disciple will...

### **LISTEN TO GOD: KNOW THE BIBLE**

- "examine the scriptures every day" (Acts 17:11)
- Read the Bible through every year (morning?)
- Investigate a topic a month; outline findings each day and write them in a journal (evening?)
  
- "correctly handle the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Discern between traditions and God's eternal principles
- Listen and critique sermons and Bible lessons in light of God's word (not by personal agendas)

### **TALK TO GOD: PRAY**

- "pray continually" (I Thess. 4:17)
- Select one person daily to remember at least seven times in prayer
- Establish a daily prayer list; carry it and go through it each day; change it weekly

### **TALK ABOUT GOD: TELL THE STORY**

- "go and make disciples" (Matt. 28:19)
- Give to the regular contribution and special mission contributions to support missionaries
- Memorize and recite the scriptural principles necessary for salvation
- Write these principles out every week
- Begin conversations and steer those conversations to the things of God
  
- "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15)
- Praise family members, fellow workers, and other disciples for jobs well done
- Distinguish between words that tear down and words that build up

### **BECOME LIKE GOD: IMITATE GOD**

- BE PURE – "put on new self, created to be like God in righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:24)
- Purity of speech – "Speak truthfully..." (Eph. 4:25)
- Purity of emotions – "not let the sun go down while I am still angry" (Eph. 4:26)
- Seek out the source of anger and remove or overcome it
- Evaluate the reasons for the anger
- Purity of life – "doing something useful..." (Eph. 4:28)
  
- BE FORGIVING – "forgiving each other" (Eph. 4:32); "forgive as the Father forgave" (Col. 3:13)
- Getting rid of...
- Adding...
- Identify fellow Christians who are offended/offenders and seek to make friends with them
- Pray for those who have been offensive
- List the sins God has forgiven in my life
  
- BE LOVING -- "live a life of love..." (Eph. 5:1-2); "love one another" (John 13:34)
- Smile at everyone
- Share time and possessions
- Give someone a gift anonymously each week
  
- BE GRATEFUL -- "give thanks in all circumstances" (I Thess. 5:18)
- Say "thank you" more than twenty times a day
- Select an "hourly blessing" to thank God for through each day; set an alarm to remind if necessary
- Set aside a time each week to write thank you notes to family and friends
  
- BE CONTENT -- "be content whatever the circumstances" (Phil. 4:11)
- Express appreciation regardless of the situation
- Choose to be satisfied
- Demonstrate satisfaction as a model for children