

Come as you are but don't stay that way - 2
January 14th 2006

"The strongest argument for Christianity is Christians, when they are drawing life from God. The strongest argument against Christianity? Also Christians, when they become exclusive, self righteous, and complacent."

Sheldon Van Auken

John 15:4-5

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

NASB

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."*

Practices that promote spiritual growth:

1. Regular Personal Inventory.

Psalm 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

2. Regular Input and Communication:

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.

3. Habit-Breaking Practices.

Deut 6:4*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."*

Matt 5:16

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:11-12

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 John 4:7-8

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God . Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God .⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.