
Christians Are Not Perfect.

It is true that Christians

- sin;
- are tempted by evil thoughts and desires;
- can be selfish and ask, “What’s in it for me?”;
- fear death at times and try not to think about it;
- may trust in money, prestige, and power for security;
- can put on a religious front or act insincerely;
- may be tempted to think that God will overlook their faults because they are no worse than other people;
- sometimes consider attending church a Sunday morning religious duty;
- may not always radiate the joy and enthusiasm that faith in Christ brings;
- often fail to demonstrate in their lives the perfect love and forgiveness God has shown in Jesus Christ.

Christians Are Not Perfect and They Know It.

It is also true that Christians

- are forgiven their sins because Jesus Christ suffered on the cross, died, and rose from the grave as the Savior of the world;
- know and experience a new kind of life;
- grow in grace and produce the fruits of the Spirit;
- rejoice in God’s abundant forgiveness;
- attend church to hear God’s Word and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion;
- treasure the Bible as God’s Word through which God reveals the Good News of everlasting life in Christ;
- are guided through life by the power of the Holy Spirit given them in Baptism;
- serve Christ by serving others;
- demonstrate the love of God by their actions;

-
- do not despair over their failures and mistakes since God stands ready to forgive and receive them again and again;
 - persevere through life’s struggles and face even death confident of ultimate victory, because in His resurrection, Jesus Christ has won the victory for them;
 - by grace bear their crosses patiently, knowing that suffering produces the image of Christ in them.

If you are afflicted by doubts and temptations;

if you have reservations about the Christian life;

if you are unsure of your own convictions;

if you are unhappy in life;

it just means you are not perfect.

No Christian is.

But Christians Are Forgiven by Faith in Christ's Death and Resurrection.

Surely He has borne our griefs and earned
our sorrows;

yet we esteemed Him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our
transgressions;

He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that
brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own
way;

and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity
of us all.

Isaiah 53:4–6

Behold, the days are coming, declares
the LORD, when I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel and the
house of Judah, not like the covenant that
I made with their fathers on the day when
I took them by the hand to bring them out
of Egypt, My covenant that they broke,

though I was their husband, declares the
LORD. But this is the covenant that I will
make with the house of Israel after those
days, declares the LORD: I will put My law
within them, and I will write it on their
hearts. And I will be their God, and they
shall be My people. And no longer shall
each one teach his neighbor and each
his brother, saying 'Know the LORD.' for
they shall all know Me, from the least of
them to the greatest, declares the LORD.
For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will
remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Come to Me all who labor and are
heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take
My yoke upon you, and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and
you will find rest for your souls. For My
yoke is easy, and My burden light.

Matthew 11:28–30



Concordia
Publishing House
www.cph.org

1-800-325-3040



0 78777 03622 5

CONCORDIA TRACTS

© 2004 Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63118-3968

Scripture quotations are from The Holy
Bible, English Standard Version, copyright ©
2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News
Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed in USA

Art by Leslie Benson © CPH 10-1748

Christians Are Not Perfect

