

HOW TO LIVE FOR CHRIST NOW

1. This week we considered the question "How can you live for Christ in a divided and shaking world?" What are some situations where you have found it challenging to respond as Jesus would respond? Are there situations where you aren't sure how Jesus would respond?
2. We find our answer to this question in John chapter 1, verse 14. Please take a moment to read this verse aloud.
3. In John 1:14, most translations use the phrase "full of grace and truth" to describe the behavior of Jesus on earth. Some translations use the phrase "full of unfailing love and faithfulness," meaning that Jesus was always loving while being faithful to the truth of God. How does the idea of being "full of grace and truth" help you navigate a situation you are facing?
4. Pastor John walked us through 9 responses that we can adopt in order to be "full of grace and truth" in a changing world. We have listed them below. Which of these 9 responses spoke the most to you? What do you like or see as helpful about this response?
5. Under each of the 9 responses, Pastor John has listed multiple Scripture passages that shape the response. For the responses you discuss, look up the Scriptures beneath it, and read them aloud. How does God's Word direct our response to a changing and divided world?
6. Choose one response that you can apply this week, and take a moment to pray for God's strength to live this way.
7. In this series, we committed as a church to stay true to God's Word, even as we represent the love and grace of Christ to our world. Is this a commitment you agree with? Are you excited to be part of a church that is facing the future with clarity and with God's Word as our guide?

NINE WAYS TO LIVE FOR CHRIST

1: WE REMAIN ROOTED TO SCRIPTURES.

In a world where truth is feelings-based, we will remain rooted to the Scriptures and their life-giving direction.

(Psalm 119, Colossians 3:16a, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

2: WE TRAIN OUR YOUNG.

We will train our young in the freedom and power of Christian truth.

(Deuteronomy 11:16-21 and 2 Timothy 2:2)

3: WE ARE KNOWN FOR DOING GOOD.

We will be known for doing good, serving the least of these and loving our neighbors.

(1 Peter 2:12, Matthew 5:16, Romans 12:21)

4: WE DIGNIFY ALL PEOPLE AS IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD.

In a world where people are treated as commodities or as opponents, we will dignify all people as image bearers of God.

(Colossians 3:12-15, 1 Corinthians 13:3)

5: WE BEHAVE AS AMBASSADORS.

We will be ambassadors, behaving diplomatically.

(2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Philippians 3:20)

6: WE LOVE OUR PERSECUTORS.

In a world where opponents are vilified, we will love our persecutors.

(John 1:14, Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:14-21)

7: WE REMAIN CALM.

In a world driven by fear and unrest, we will remain calm, confident that our Father provides our daily bread.

(Matthew 6:11, Philippians 4:19)

8: WE WILL BE INVINCIBLE.

We will be invincible as we serve God's purposes for which we are placed here, now.

(John 10:18, John 18:36, John 19:11, Matthew 10:28, Daniel 3:19-30, Daniel 6, Esther 3-8)

9: WE WILL BE FEARLESS.

In a world divided by violence, terrorism, and war, we will be fearless.

(Isaiah 8:12-13, Matthew 24:6 and 2 Timothy 1:7)