

“The Roles & Responsibilities of A Christian” Delivered by E A Terry 10 22 17
1st John 3:1-11; Matthew 25:14 – 30; 1st Corinthians 3:1-23; **2nd Timothy 2: 1 – 26**

In this second chapter of 2nd Timothy we are given nine word pictures which describe the various roles and responsibilities of a Christian.

These nine roles and responsibilities of a Christian are listed in your bulletin insert so I invite you to follow along and take notes as we look at them.

The Apostle begins by reminding us of our position in Christ.

A Christian is a son (verse 1).

Every Christian is a child of God by faith.

We are not children of God by natural birth or because our parents were Christians.

You were not born a Christian.

You can only become a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

We read that in our lesson from 1st John 3.

Romans 8:14 states, “***For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”***

Fathers provide for their children, protect their children, teach their children, and discipline their children because they love their children and they care about their children.

Jesus said: “*if though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him*” (Matthew 7:11)

A son is entitled to their father’s inheritance.

And our heavenly father owns the entire universe.

A son has the authority of their father and they speak and act for their father.

Acts 1:8 states; “*But you will receive power when The Holy Spirit comes on you ...*”

A son has the privilege of unlimited access to their father and a son enjoys a special relationship with their father.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray Jesus used a Greek word we translate as “*Daddy*”. (Matthew 5:9)

The Apostle Paul refers to Timothy as his son because Paul mentored Timothy and it was through Paul’s ministry that Timothy came to know The Lord.

In 2nd Timothy 2:2 we see that all Christians are to be a teacher.

Christians have a responsibility to teach other people about Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 is referred to as the Great Commission.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Parents have the primary responsibility of teaching their children about Jesus Christ.

When a child is baptized the parents promise God that they will teach their children about Jesus and that they will model the Christian life.

Ephesians 6:4 says, ***“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”***

When a child is baptized the Church promises God that they will teach our spiritual children about Jesus Christ and that we will be a Christian role model for our spiritual children.

As you know a teacher can not teach unless they know their subject and teachers must know how to explain their subject to their students.

And an effective teacher must be excited about sharing their knowledge with their students.

Christians have a responsibility to teach other people about Jesus Christ.

Right now we have a shortage of teachers in SMORES, Children's Church, and Sunday School.

So I pray that you will volunteer or gladly accept your responsibility to teach when asked.

Being a steward is the next responsibility Christians have.

This is also in verse 2.

All Christians are God's stewards.

And as you know, stewards are people who are trusted and have been given the responsibility of investing and managing their master's possessions and property.

When most Christians hear the word "steward" or "stewardship" they think of money, talents, and time.

But stewardship includes much more.

In addition to investing and managing God's property and possessions every Christian has been entrusted with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We are not to keep the Good News to ourselves but rather, it is our duty to invest what God has given to us in the lives of the people around us.

You are a Christian because someone took the time to tell you about the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

As Christians we are all stewards of the knowledge that can keep people from spending eternity in hell.

How are you going to feel when you get to heaven and you are told your co-worker or your neighbor is burning in hell because you failed to tell them about Jesus?

2nd Corinthians 4:7 is crystal clear. ***“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”***

In 2nd Timothy 2:3-4 the Christian is described as a soldier.

A soldier is a disciplined person who endures hardships and sacrifices themselves for the well-being of his people.

A soldier must learn to recognize their enemy and a soldier must learn their enemy tactics.

A soldier stands firm and a soldier fights the enemy and we know Satan is our enemy.

A soldier trusts his commanding officer, obeys his commanding officer, and does not question his commanding officer's authority.

And as Christians we know our commanding officer is Jesus Christ.

In Philippians 2:25 the Apostle Paul refers to Epaphroditus as a fellow soldier in the service of The Lord.

In 2nd Timothy 2:5 the Christian is referred to as an athlete.

An athlete is also a disciplined person who must be constantly training in order to be in shape for the next competition.

Athletes study the rules of the game as well as their opponent's tactics.

Then athletes develop their game plan.

The purpose of all athletic events is to determine who is the winner.

Again Satan is our opponent and all Christians are competing to win people's souls.

All athletes enter a competition to win.

Athletes do not compete to lose.

In 2nd Timothy 4:7 Paul said, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*”

An athlete who breaks the rules is disqualified.

Similarly, a Christian who does not live as Jesus taught cannot expect to win the victor’s crown that the Apostle Paul describes in 2nd Timothy 4:8.

In 2nd Timothy 2:6 the Christian is referred to as a hard-working farmer.

Farmers work hard and farmers totally trust The Lord for a good harvest.

Think about this. Farmers put all of their money, their time, and sweat into the ground.

Farmers trust The Lord to supply the rain and the sunlight.

Farmers trust The Lord to make the seed sprout and the plants to produce the fruit.

Farmers are totally dependent on The Lord and farmers have to totally trust The Lord.

As Christian farmers we are to sow the seeds of God’s word.

Then we are to trust God for a harvest of people’s souls.

In the 2nd chapter of Luke we learn that as Christians we also have the responsibility of harvesting the souls of the people God has saved.

Jesus said “*the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few*”. (Luke 2:10)

As Christians we are to rejoice and celebrate with The Lord of The Harvest when a person makes their profession of faith.

In 2nd Timothy 2:7 Christians are referred to as workers.

To be successful a workman must know their trade.

A builder must know how to read the building plans and then he must follow the building plans.

Likewise, Christians must know what the Bible says, know God’s plan for their lives, and they must apply Jesus’s teachings to their lives.

Galatians 6:9 says, “*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*”

1st John 2:28-29 says, “*And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.*”

Verse 20 in our lesson from 2nd Timothy talks about the different articles in a house.

Some of the articles are set aside for special purposes and other articles are for common use.

Ephesians 4:11 & 12 say: "***So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, the pastors, the teachers to equip his people for works of service.***"

Please notice the purpose for having apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, and teachers is to equip The Lord's people for works of service.

Then in verse 21 in our lesson from 2nd Timothy Christians are referred to as instruments.

As Christians we all are to be The Lord's hands and feet to do The Lord's work.

All Christians are to be The Lord's spokesmen and all Christians we are proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

All Christians are to be merciful and to help those in need.

Verse 21 is very important.

Verse 21 says, "***Those who cleanse themselves will be holy and useful the Master***".

A surgeon does not use a scalpel unless it is sterilized and Jesus cannot use you until you are cleansed from all unrighteousness.

People do not drink from a dirty cup and an unsaved person will not listen to your testimony if you are living a sinful life.

Light can not shine through a filthy lamp nor can the light of Jesus cannot shine through a sinful life.

In 2nd Timothy 2:24 Paul refers to Christians as servants.

A servant does what his master wants, when his master wants it done, and how his master wants it done.

A good servant wants to please their master and a good servant does his work without arguing or complaining.

As Christians we are all The Lord's servants.

After Jesus washed the disciples in The Upper Room Jesus said; "***Now that I, as your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you***". (John 13:14 & 15)

In 1st Peter 2:16, we are told to live as servants of God.

And in 1st Corinthians 4:1, the Apostle Paul said, "***This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.***"

So the question for each of us is this; do you know for certain that you are God's precious child?

If you are God's precious child how are you fulfilling your responsibility as good steward?

As a soldier are you fighting the unbelief around you and are you fighting the evil desires within you?

Are you seriously training as an athlete who is determined to win?

Do you totally depend upon The Lord and trust The Lord to produce good fruit in your life?

Remember you should not expect to reap a harvest unless you plant the seeds.

Will Jesus say you are an approved workman? (2nd Timothy 2:15)

Are you working for The Lord or are you working for yourself?

Are you an instrument of God's peace and letting the love of God shine through you?

Can you, like Paul, say, "***I am a bond servant of Christ***"?

When the Lord calls you home will He say, "***Well done, good and faithful servant***" (Matthew 25:21) or will The Lord say, "***You wicked, lazy servant?***" (Matthew 25:26)

God's word to us today challenges each of us to examine ourselves and see if we are living as a child of God and how well we are discharging all of our responsibilities of a Christian.

Are you a picture of a complete Christian?

AMEN