

# How to Live A Christian Life

FROM MARTIN LUTHER'S  
*ON CHRISTIAN FREEDOM*

TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY

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*STUDY GUIDE*

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# Leader's Guide

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# Introduction

1. With what seemingly contradictory statements can the faith of a Christian be summarized?

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2. We can conclude from what St. Paul says about this that, "To serve and obey what ever it loves is the very nature of \_\_\_\_\_."

3. So therefore Christ Jesus is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Explain how this can be.

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5. A Christian has two natures: a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ nature.

6. The spiritual nature of a Christian is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

7. The bodily nature of a Christian is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Chapter 1 - Christian Faith

1. What fact must we as humans come to grips with regarding and the ability for us to produce righteousness or spiritual freedom?

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# Chapter 2 - Living In Faith

1. Are theological speculation and meditation or other exertions of the soul beneficial to one's soul? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the one thing needed for life, justification and Christian freedom?

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3. What one thing can the soul not do without? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the Word of God?

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4. How is the Word of God received? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Faith cannot exist without what? \_\_\_\_\_

6. The first concern of every Christian should be to put aside all reliance upon one's \_\_\_\_\_.

7. What is it that justifies, liberates and saves without works? \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 3 - Law and Promise

1. The Word of God contains two great teachings, they are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Law teaches us what is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Promise (Gospel) teaches us that Christ kept the \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
4. What has God the Father made salvation dependent upon? \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 4 – Characteristics of Faith

1. The first characteristic of faith is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What therefore accomplishes everything for the Christian? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If faith is all that is needed for salvation, then the Christian has no need for the Law, so then, the Christian is free from the burden of the Law? Yes or No? \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The second characteristic of faith is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The highest worship of God is to ascribe to Him \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The third characteristic of faith is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What alone is the righteousness of the Christian and the fulfilling of all the commandments?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Good works are done before or after the fulfillment of the Law? \_\_\_\_\_.

## Chapter 5 – Christ the Firstborn: Priest and King

1. Why was the firstborn male given great value in the Old Testament?

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2. The firstborn male was a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

3. Since Christ was the “firstborn” of the Father, then He was truly Priest and King. True or False?

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4. The priesthood of Christ consists of what things? \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The priesthood of Christ does not consist of what things?

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6. Christ prays and intercedes for us in heaven, and also He teaches us with the living teachings of the Holy Spirit. How does this same model work today?

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## Chapter 6 – The Christian: Priest and King

1. By His birth Christ has assumed the offices of Priest and King. By our faith relationship with Christ, He has also made us to be \_\_\_\_\_

2. The reign of the Christian is what type of reign? \_\_\_\_\_

3. As a priest, Christians may do what?

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4. Does God hear the prayers of the unbeliever?

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## Chapter 7 – Pastors and Preaching

1. “If all Christians are priests, then what the difference between my pastor and me?”  

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2. Such ministers, servants and stewards are to serve the rest of the body of Christ with  

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3. Although it is true that we are all priests, we cannot and should not do what?  

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4. The ecclesiastical structure we have now is the result of?  

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5. Preachers should not preach about Christ as a simple matter of what? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Preachers should not preach about Christ simply to stir human what? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The object of preaching should be the promotion of what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 8 – An Internal Struggle

1. Are we to take it easy and do no good works? \_\_\_\_\_
2. As long as we are living, we are simply making a beginning which the Lord will complete at a  

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3. While on earth, a Christian needs to exercise (subdue) the \_\_\_\_\_
4. The “inner man” comes into conflict with what? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe the tension that exists between the inner man and the flesh.  

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## Chapter 9 – Working the Body into Submission

1. The works of the Christian are for one purpose alone:

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2. Do the Christians works justify them before God? \_\_\_\_\_.

3. What are ways in which we subjugate our body?

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4. Sometimes some works do great harm to the body, how can that be?

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## Chapter 10 – Working in the Garden

1. How was Adam’s original righteousness, and our righteousness different?

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2. Do our good works before God help us to obtain justification? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Unless he is a believer and a Christian, none of his works have any value at all? T or F?

4. A person must be “good,” before any “good works” can be done? T or F?

5. A good work is “good” if done in \_\_\_\_\_ It is bad if done in \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do works justify a person? \_\_\_\_\_

7. By \_\_\_\_\_ a person is free from all law?

8. No good work can justify an unbeliever or \_\_\_\_\_ them?

9. A person is justified and saved, not by works or the Law, but by the \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 11 – Working Under a Yoke

1. We do not reject good works. We in fact \_\_\_\_\_ them.
2. We do not condemn good works on the basis of themselves, but on the basis of what?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When are good works a “monster”?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Repentance comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
5. Faith or grace comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

## Chapter 12 – Working for Your Neighbor

1. A Christian lives for \_\_\_\_\_ people on earth.
2. A Christian lives not for himself at all, but only for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Christian takes care of his own body in order that, through its health, he is able to work and to acquire and preserve property in order to  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. This is truly the Christian life...This is \_\_\_\_\_ really \_\_\_\_\_ through love.
5. St. Paul clearly establishes a maxim for a Christian life, but saying...

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

## Chapter 13 – Working Like Christ

1. St. Paul makes note of Christ as an example of how we should serve others saying  
“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
2. Christ did not raise Himself above us and take to Himself power over whom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Although a Christian is free from all works, he ought to empty himself of this liberty, take on himself the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, be made in the likeness of \_\_\_\_\_, be found in fashion as a man, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and in every way act towards his neighbor as he sees that God through Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ towards him.
4. In such a way, love and joy in the Lord flow from \_\_\_\_\_
5. The goal of such service is not to make people feel \_\_\_\_\_ toward the Christian.
6. Such service does not look for gratefulness or ungratefulness, but most freely and willingly it gives itself and it's possessions, whether it loses them through ungratefulness, or gains \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Christian's Father, in just the same way, distributed everything to everyone \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
8. If we recognize those \_\_\_\_\_, which have been given to us, then love is quickly diffused in our hearts through the Holy Spirit.
9. Each Christian should become to another a sort of \_\_\_\_\_
10. In this way we will be Christ's to each other, and that same Christ will be in all of us—that is we will truly be \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 14 – The Riches and Glory of the Christian

1. The Christian can \_\_\_\_\_ all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things, and \_\_\_\_\_ nothing.
2. The Christian is lord over \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. At the same time the Christian is an \_\_\_\_\_ and useful \_\_\_\_\_ to all.
4. Unfortunately this is \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.
5. We don't know why we are \_\_\_\_\_ and why we are \_\_\_\_\_ Christians.
6. We are certainly \_\_\_\_\_ to be Christians by \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We are taught by many to seek: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did St. Paul have Timothy circumcised, but resisted having Titus circumcised?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Paul took the middle road... We ought to use the same principle; receiving the weak in faith, but boldly resisting these hardened teachers of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. St. Paul taught that Christians should be *subject to principalities and powers* and *ready to do every good work* but not in order to be \_\_\_\_\_ by these things.
11. Christians are already \_\_\_\_\_ by faith!
12. Whatever you give, give freely without hope of \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Here is a good rule of thumb: *The good things we have received from God should flow from one Christian to another and become* \_\_\_\_\_
14. In conclusion then, it must be asserted that a Christian does not live in \_\_\_\_\_, but in Christ and in his neighbor. If a Christian does not live in such a way, he is no \_\_\_\_\_.
15. A Christian lives in Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ and in his neighbor by \_\_\_\_\_.

## Chapter 15 – The Abuse of Christian Freedom

1. Certainly there are many people who, upon hearing about this \_\_\_\_\_, immediately take advantage of this liberty in the wrong way.
2. They think that everything is now \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Such people seem to think that their Christian liberty is based upon refusal to \_\_\_\_\_, and their omitting of customary \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Such people scoff at the regulations of men, but completely \_\_\_\_\_ everything else that has to do with Christianity.
5. In contrast, there are those who strictly oppose such people, and who seek their salvation solely on the basis of their \_\_\_\_\_ of and \_\_\_\_\_ for rituals.
6. Both of these groups are obviously headed down the \_\_\_\_\_ road.
7. In this matter, we much listen to the Word of God, which teaches us neither to go \_\_\_\_\_, but to follow those precepts of the Lord which cause the heart to rejoice.
8. Faith in Christ does not set us free from \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Faith sets us free from \_\_\_\_\_ in works, that is a foolish presumption to seek our justification through works.
8. Just because our justification is based upon faith, however, our works should not be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The Christian must take the \_\_\_\_\_ between these two groups of people.
10. We should boldly resist those teachers of \_\_\_\_\_. Even though the regulations of the \_\_\_\_\_ deserve sharp reproof, we must spare those among us who are \_\_\_\_\_, till they are set \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Be careful not to use it (Christian liberty) in the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. In the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ however, use your liberty to spite them.

## Chapter 16 – A Proper Understanding of Rituals

1. Let's be honest. We cannot live in a world without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Hence in the Christian life, rituals are to be looked upon as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ look upon those preparations for building or working which are not made with any view of being \_\_\_\_\_ or anything in themselves, but only because without them there could be no building and no work. When the structure is completed, they are laid \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Here you see we do not \_\_\_\_\_ these preparations, but set the highest value on them.
4. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ in them (rituals) we despise.
5. Thus, we do not \_\_\_\_\_ works and rituals, nay, we set the highest value on them.
6. But, we \_\_\_\_\_ the belief in works.
7. But since human nature and natural reason, are always superstitious, and quick to believe that justification can be attained by any law or works proposed to them, and since \_\_\_\_\_ is also exercised and confirmed in the same view, she (human nature and natural reason) can never free herself from this bondage to \_\_\_\_\_ and come to a recognition of the freedom of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. We pray that God would \_\_\_\_\_ us otherwise there is no \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

*May God be gracious to us...and make His face to shine upon us,*

*that we may know His way on earth*

*and His saving power among all nations. Amen."*

## **NOTES:**

# Leader's Guide

## Introduction

1. With what seemingly contradictory statements can the faith of a Christian be summarized? [A Christian is the most liberated master of everyone, and subject to no one. A Christian is the most dutiful servant of everyone, and subject to everyone.](#)
2. We can conclude from what St. Paul says about this that, “To serve and obey what ever it loves is the very nature of [love](#).”
3. So therefore Christ Jesus is both [free](#) and [enslaved](#).
4. Explain how this can be. [Christ is Lord of all but born of a woman, born under the Law.](#)
5. A Christian has two natures: a [spiritual](#) and a [bodily](#) nature.
6. The spiritual nature of a Christian is called the [new man, or new Adam](#).
7. The bodily nature of a Christian is called the [old man, or old Adam](#).

## Chapter 1 - Christian Faith

1. What fact must we as humans come to grips with regarding and ability for us to produce righteousness or spiritual freedom? [No situation in life has any power to produce Christian righteousness or freedom.](#)

## Chapter 2 - Living In Faith

1. Are theological speculation and meditation or other exertions of the soul beneficial to one's soul? [No.](#)
2. What is the one thing needed for life, justification and Christian freedom? [The Word of God, the Gospel of Christ, which produces faith.](#)
3. What one thing can the soul not do without? [The Word of God.](#)  
  
What is the Word of God? [The Word of God is the Good News of God about His Son, the Christ, who became man, suffered, and was glorified through the Holy Spirit.](#)
4. How is the Word of God received? [By and through faith alone.](#)
5. Faith cannot exist without what? [Works.](#)
6. The first concern of every Christian should be to put aside all reliance upon one's [Works](#)?
7. What is it that justifies, liberates and saves without works? [Faith alone.](#)

## Chapter 3 - Law and Promise

1. The Word of God contains two great teachings, they are [The Law and the Promise \(Gospel\)](#).
2. The Law teaches us what is [good \(perfect\)](#).
3. The Promise (Gospel) teaches us that Christ kept the [Law](#) for us.
4. What has God the Father made salvation dependent upon? [Faith alone](#).

## Chapter 4 – Characteristics of Faith

1. The first characteristic of faith is [that is alone justifies the Christian](#).
2. What therefore accomplishes everything for the Christian? [Faith](#).
3. If faith is all that is needed for salvation, then the Christian has no need for the Law, so then, the Christian is free from the burden of the Law? Yes or No? [Yes](#).
4. The second characteristic of faith is [that it honors Him in whom it believes](#).
5. The highest worship of God is to ascribe to Him [truth, righteousness, and any other qualities we would ascribe to one in whom we believe](#).
6. The third characteristic of faith is [that it unites the soul of the Christian to Christ](#).
7. What alone is the righteousness of the Christian and the fulfilling of all the commandments? [Faith](#).
8. Good works are done [before or after](#) the fulfillment of the Law? [After](#).

## Chapter 5 – Christ the Firstborn: Priest and King

1. Why was the firstborn male given great value in the old Testament? [Because he was given superiority over the rest of the children by the double honor of priesthood and king. The firstborn male was both priest and king.](#)
2. The firstborn male was a [foreshadow](#) of Christ.
3. Since Christ was the “firstborn” of the Father, then He was truly Priest and King. True or False? [True.](#)
4. The priesthood of Christ consists of what things? [Spiritual.](#)
5. The priesthood of Christ does not consist of what things? [Outwards displays of vestments and rituals.](#)
6. Christ prays and intercedes for us in heaven, and also He teaches us with the living teachings of the Holy Spirit. How does this same model work today? [Human priests, \(pastors\) do this in their visible prayers and sermons.](#)

## Chapter 6 – The Christian: Priest and King

1. By His birth Christ has assumed the offices of Priest and King. By our faith relationship with Christ, He has also made us to be [priests and kings.](#)
2. The reign of the Christian is what type of reign? [Spiritual.](#)
3. As a priest, Christians may do what? [They are worthy to appear before God, pray for others and teach others about God.](#)
4. Does God hear the prayers of the unbeliever? [The unbeliever does not appear before God, because God does not hear sinners.](#)

## Chapter 7 – Pastors and Preaching

1. “If all Christians are priests, then what the difference between my pastor and me?” [Different titles do not help in defining the differences.](#)
2. Such ministers, servants and stewards are to serve the rest of the body of Christ [with the ministry of the Word, the teaching of the faith of Christ, and the liberty of the Christian.](#)
3. Although it is true that we are all priests, we cannot and should not do what? [Minister and teach publicly.](#)
4. The ecclesiastical structure we have now is the result of? [An arrogant display of power and a terrible despotism that no earthly government is like it,](#)
5. Preachers should not preach about Christ as a simple matter of what? [History](#)
6. Preachers should not preach about Christ simply to stir human what? [Emotions](#)
7. The object of preaching should be the promotion of what? [Faith in Christ.](#)

## Chapter 8 – An Internal Struggle

1. Are we to take it easy and do no good works? [No!](#)
2. As long as we are living, we are simply making a beginning which the Lord will complete at a [future time in our life in heaven by Christ.](#)
3. While on earth, a Christian needs to exercise (subdue) the [body.](#)
4. The “inner man” comes into conflict with what? [The flesh.](#)
5. Describe the tension that exists between the inner man and the flesh. [What each seeks to please is totally different, the world vs. God.](#)

## Chapter 9 – Working the Body into Submission

1. The works of the Christian are for one purpose alone: [to focus our efforts solely on bringing the body into submission and thus purify it from its sinful desires.](#)
2. Do the Christians works justify them before God? [No!](#)
3. What are ways in which we subjugate our body? [Fast, watch and work to subdue the body.](#)
4. Sometimes some works do great harm to the body, how can that be? [They are simply a tragic result of the lack of knowledge of Christian faith and life.](#)

## Chapter 10 – Working in the Garden

1. How was Adam’s original righteousness, and our righteousness different? [Adam’s original righteousness was created when he was created. Our righteousness was earned for us through Christ Jesus.](#)
2. Do our good works before God help us to obtain justification? [No!](#)
3. Unless he is a believer and a Christian, none of his works have any value at all? [T](#) or F?
4. A person must be “good,” before any “good works” can be done? [T](#) or F?
5. A good work is “good” if done in [faith](#). It is bad if done in [unbelief](#).
6. Do works justify a person? [No, never.](#)
7. By [faith](#) a person is free from all law.
8. No good work can justify an unbeliever or [save](#) them?
9. A person is justified and saved, not by works or the Law, but by the [Word of God](#).

## Chapter 11 – Working Under a Yoke

1. We do not reject good works. We in fact [embrace](#) them.
2. We do not condemn good works on the basis of themselves, but on the basis of what? [On the basis of what impiously has been added to them: their necessity in the quest for justification.](#)
3. When are good works a “monster”? [When faith is absent from the doing of good works.](#)
4. Repentance comes from the [Law](#) of God.
5. Faith or grace comes from the [promises](#) of God.

## Chapter 12 – Working for Your Neighbor

1. A Christian lives for [all](#) people on earth.
2. A Christian lives not for himself at all, but only for [others](#).
3. The Christian takes care of his own body in order that, through its health, he is able to work and to acquire and preserve property in order to [help those who are in need](#).
4. This is truly the Christian life...This is [faith](#) really [working](#) through love.
5. St. Paul clearly establishes a maxim for a Christian life, by saying...[All our works should be for the advantage of others.](#)

## Chapter 13 – Working Like Christ

1. St. Paul makes note of Christ as an example of how we should serve others saying...“[Have this in mind among yourselves...](#)”
2. Christ did not raise Himself above us and take to Himself power over whom? [Us](#)
3. Although a Christian is free from all works, he ought to empty himself of this liberty, take on himself the form of a [servant](#), be made in the likeness of [men](#), be found in fashion as a man, [serve](#), [help](#), and in every way act towards his neighbor as he sees that God through Christ has [acted](#) and is [acting](#) towards him.
4. In such a way, love and joy in the Lord flow from [faith](#).
5. The goal of such service is not to make people feel [obligated](#) toward the Christian.
6. Such service does not look for gratefulness or ungratefulness, but most freely and willingly it gives itself and it's possessions, whether it loses them through ungratefulness, or gains [goodwill](#).
7. The Christian's Father, in just the same way, distributed everything to [everyone](#) abundantly and [freely](#) .
8. If we recognize those [great and precious gifts](#), which have been given to us, then love is quickly diffused in our hearts through the Holy Spirit.
9. Each Christian should become to another a sort of [Christ](#).
10. In this way we will be Christ's to each other, and that same Christ will be in all of us—that is we will truly be [Christians](#) .

## Chapter 14 – The Riches and Glory of the Christian

1. The Christian can [do](#) all things, [has](#) all things, and [needs](#) nothing.
2. The Christian is lord over [sin](#), [death](#), and [hell](#).
3. At the same time the Christian is an [obedient](#) and useful [servant](#) to all.
4. Unfortunately this is [unknown](#) to the world.
5. We don't know why we are [Christians](#) and why we are [called](#) Christians.
6. We are certainly [called](#) to be Christians by [Christ](#).
7. We are taught by many to seek [merits, rewards, and things that are already ours](#).
8. Why did St. Paul have Timothy circumcised, but resisted having Titus circumcised? [So that Timothy would not be an offense to the Jews of the area, and because the Jews were insisting upon circumcision for Titus](#).
9. Paul took the middle road...We ought to use the same principle; receiving the weak in faith, but boldly resisting these hardened teachers of [Law](#).
10. St. Paul taught that Christians should be subject to principalities and powers and ready to do every good work but not in order to be [justified](#) by these things.
11. Christians are already [justified](#) by faith!
12. Whatever you give, give freely without hope of [reward](#).
13. Here is a good rule of thumb: The good things we have received from God should flow from one Christian to another and become [common to all](#).
14. In conclusion then, it must be asserted that a Christian does not live in [himself](#), but in Christ and in his neighbor. If a Christian does not live in such a way, he is no [Christian](#).
15. A Christian lives in Christ by [faith](#) and in his neighbor by [love](#).

## Chapter 15 – The Abuse of Christian Freedom

1. Certainly there are many people who, upon hearing about this [liberty of faith](#), immediately take advantage of this liberty in the wrong way.
2. They think that everything is now [lawful](#).
3. Such people seem to think that their Christian liberty is based upon refusal to [fast](#), and their omitting of customary [prayers](#).
4. Such people scoff at the regulations of men, but completely [disregard](#) everything else that has to do with Christianity.
5. In contrast, there are those who strictly oppose such people, and who seek their salvation solely on the basis of their [observance](#) of and [reverence](#) for rituals.
6. Both of these groups are obviously headed down the [wrong](#) road.
7. In this matter, we much listen to the Word of God, which teaches us neither to go [to the right hand or to the left](#), but to follow those precepts of the Lord which cause the heart to rejoice.
8. Faith in Christ does not set us free from [works](#).
9. Faith sets us free from [belief](#) in works, that is a foolish presumption to seek our justification through works.
10. Just because our justification is based upon faith, however, our works should not be [despised](#) or [neglected](#).
11. The Christian must take the [“middle road”](#) between these two groups of people.
12. We should boldly resist those teachers of [tradition](#). Even though the regulations of the [popes](#) deserve sharp reproof, we must spare those among us who are [timid](#), till they are set [free](#).
13. Be careful not to use it (Christian liberty) in the presence of the [weak](#).
14. In the presence of [tyrants and the obstinate](#) however, use your liberty to spite them.

## Chapter 16 – A Proper Understanding of Rituals

1. Let's be honest. We cannot live in a world without [rituals](#) and [works](#).
2. Hence in the Christian life, rituals are to be looked upon as [builders](#) and [workmen](#) look upon those preparations for building or working which are not made with any view of being [permanent](#) or anything in themselves, but only because without them there could be no building and no work. When the structure is completed, they are laid [aside](#).
3. Here you see we do not [despise](#) these preparations, but set the highest value on them.
4. It is a [belief](#) in them (rituals) we despise.
5. Thus, we do not [despise](#) works and rituals, nay, we set the highest value on them.
6. But, we [despise](#) the belief in works.
7. But since human nature and natural reason, are always superstitious, and quick to believe that justification can be attained by any law or works proposed to them, and since [nature](#) is also exercised and confirmed in the same view, she (human nature and natural reason) can never free herself from this bondage to [works](#) and come to a recognition of the freedom of [faith](#).
8. We pray that God would [teach](#) us otherwise there is no [hope](#) for us.

*“May God be gracious to us... and make His face to shine upon us,*

*that we may know His way on earth*

*and His saving power among all nations. Amen.”*