

Don't Leave (Part 6): How to Lead Your Spouse to the Lord  
1 Corinthians 7:12-16

**I. To the Married: Don't Leave!**

**A. Marriage**

1. More than a human choice: a divine investment
2. Subject to more than human whim or law

**B. Don't Leave!**

1. Leaving intimacy will not make you more holy
2. Leaving your Christian spouse will not make you more holy
3. Leaving your unbelieving spouse will not make you more holy, in fact, staying may win them (and your children) to Christ

**II. How to Win Your Spouse (or anyone else for that matter) to Christ**

**A. Nutcracker Principle**

1. **Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.* <sup>15</sup> *Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.* <sup>16</sup> *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

2. **Light in you and works by you work together to reveal Christ from you!**

a. **Light**

- (1) Jesus is the Light of the World, and Jesus in you is the Light to the world, especially to the your spouse and family.
- (2) When you live in devotion to Christ, following Him and His example in every area of your life, and when you offer and explain Him as the reason for all that you do, you shed His Light into the lives of others.

- (a) Your testimony moves the motive for your action from your good nature to the presence of Christ within you.

- (b) **It is true that we are to live good lives in the world, but the only way for our good works to become Light is if we identify them as the work of the living Christ within us.**

b. **Good works**

- (1) Intentional activities of believers that are directed and supplied by the Holy Spirit and are meant to reveal the nature of Christ to the understanding of non-believers in order to lead them to faith in Him.

- (a) Intentional - you begin to live in relation to others purposefully to reveal Christ in word and in works.

- (b) Directed and supplied by the Holy Spirit

- i) Result of prayer
- ii) Result of submission

- iii) Result of reliance
    - (c) Reveal the nature of Christ
      - i) Character of the activities must share the character of Christ
      - ii) “As I have loved you so you must love one another.”
    - (d) To the understanding of non-believers
      - i) **Romans 10:14 (ESV) *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?***
      - ii) **Romans 10:17 (ESV) *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.***
        - a) Faith comes, not by seeing, but by hearing
        - b) Hearing comes by the word preached
        - c) **Explanation must accompany action**
      - iii) **Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) <sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.***
    - (e) To lead them to faith in Christ
  - (2) **Not random niceness but intentional, purposeful choices acted upon in the power of the Holy Spirit that prioritize the salvation of others over all other consideration.**
3. Integrated action of the Light of Christ and work in the Holy Spirit
  - a. asserts the necessary force to overcome the resistance of the human pride and ego
  - b. and bring someone to conviction and confession of sin as well as acceptance of grace and the claims of Christ on their life

## **B. Personal Spiritual Resources for Success**

- 1. Have a genuine relationship with God through faith in Christ
  - a. **Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) <sup>28</sup> *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.***
    - (1) Single most important action you can take to lead someone to faith
    - (2) Out of your relationship with Christ will flow the spiritual life needed to succeed in a long term commitment to

- intentionally live and love someone into faith
- b. Resources in Christ
    - (1) Love to make someone else's spiritual future the priority of your life
    - (2) Grace to make someone else's spiritual journey the priority of your life
    - (3) Humility to make someone else's spiritual condition the priority for your life
    - (4) Strength to make someone else's spiritual success the priority of your life
  - 2. Rely continually on the Holy Spirit whose role is to convict and convince
    - a. **John 16:8 (ESV) *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:***
    - b. The Spirit's job is to convict, your job is to testify
      - (1) You connect your Spirit-directed action to Christ
      - (2) The Spirit connects your loved one to Christ
  - 3. Practice humble, consistent devotion to Christ
    - a. Love Christ
    - b. Love with Christ's love for Christ's sake
      - (1) **John 15:12 (ESV) *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.***
      - (2) Love with purpose
      - (3) Love with humility
      - (4) Love with consistency