

Just Follow the Directions

One of the most challenging things I faced as a father was having to put together toys. Being the FATHER, the MAN, it always fell on me to assemble everything. Even today, with toy assembly a thing of the past for me, chores around the house (plumbing, electrical, construction, etc.) are still MY obligation. And being a man, I always forge ahead, thinking I know what to do. However, halfway through the job I often realize I have no idea what I'm doing. It is then that I go to the instructions and finish successfully. Sound familiar?

I have often spoken about the simplicity of God's word. We spend time preaching and teaching (expounding in an attempt to show our intelligence) trying to make people aware of how they are to live. In reality, all we need to do is go to the word, read it, and see how simple the instructions are. I didn't say following the instructions would be easy. However, the instructions are so simple, even I can understand them.

This is what Paul says in Ephesians 5:5-17:

“...you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deed of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed to the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. That's why it is said”

'Wake up, O sleeper
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.”

Now, what are our instructions as we “build” our lives?

1. Be careful who you run around with, listen to, and place your trust in.
2. Live good, righteous, and truthful lives.
3. Find out what pleases the Lord and do it.
4. Have nothing to do with sin.
5. Expose sin for what it is by living a life that is exactly the opposite of sinful.
6. Be careful how you live—be wise, not foolish.
7. Take every opportunity to do good.
8. Understand what the Lord's will is and do it.

How do we find out what pleases the Lord and just exactly what His will is?
READ THE INSTRUCTIONS. Simply read the instructions and follow them.