

The Quiet Life of a Christian (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

1. We've been focusing our attention on the command given in 1 Thessalonians 4:11: "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life."
2. Part 1 was basically about how NOT to lead a quiet life, but it would be a mistake to leave our discussion there. Let's focus now on how TO lead a quiet life.

BODY:

I. How to Lead a Quiet Life (10 Ways)

A. Develop a quiet spirit.

1. It's the only way we can hope to lead a quiet life.
2. It's about more than just volume, because quite frankly, sometimes we do need to raise our voice.
3. A quiet spirit is peaceable, submissive, meek and humble, perfectly content to give all the glory to God.
 - a. 1 Peter 3:3-4 (a sense in which men, too, need a quiet spirit); 4:10-11; 5:5-6.

B. Do your duty.

1. That's the beauty of this quiet life—you don't have to do anything spectacular to please God.
2. Go back to our main text and look at the duties described in the surrounding verses—love your brethren; mind your own business; do your work; take care of your family (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12).
3. Not an exhaustive list, but you get the point. Don't get so busy trying to make a big splash that you neglect your basic duties.
 - a. A man can very successful in his work, and yet be a lousy husband and father.

C. Mind your own business.

1. It's not that we turn a "blind eye" to the sins and weaknesses of others—in fact, notice the admonitions given in 1 Thessalonians 5:14.
2. But we don't go looking for problems, either. We should be advocates for our brethren, not accusers.
3. Proverbs 17:1: "Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife."
 - a. Strife is opposed to quietness, and strife is exactly what we'll cause if we become busybodies.
 - b. Stay busy with our own business, and this likely won't become a problem.

D. Mind your appearance—avoid the appearance that screams, "ALL EYES ON ME."

1. 1 Timothy 2:9-10.
 - a. The emphasis here is more on inner adornment.
2. Do you know what's featured in a Christian's clothing line?
 - a. Virtues like humility, shamefastness, modesty, discretion, chastity, sobriety, self-control, reverence, humility.
 - b. Wear these virtues on the inside and they will have a profound effect on what we wear on the outside.
3. And yes, we can think of some things inconsistent with these virtues and the quiet life: revealing clothes, highly visible tattoos, multiple piercings, crazy hair, long hair on men, short hair on women.

E. Do all the good you can, but “do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (Matthew 6:3).

1. There’s no need to make a big show of your good works—God knows what you do and He will reward you.

- a. Matthew 6:4, 6, 18; Hebrews 6:10.

2. You okay with no one knowing what you did?

F. Don’t complain.

1. “Do all things without complaining and disputing”—that’s what Paul wrote in Philippians 2:14.

2. 1 Corinthians 10:10-11 warns us not to complain like the Israelites did.

3. Like the Israelites, we’ve become pretty adept complainers. The economy, the weather, our health, our brethren, the preacher, the elders, our spouses—you name it and we’ve probably complained about it (or them).

4. How can we regularly complain and still lead a quiet life? That’s not the kind of noise we need to be making.

G. Instead, be content.

1. Philippians 4:11-13.

2. Listen to this description of contentment: “Better a handful with quietness than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind” (Ecclesiastes 4:6).

3. Learning contentment requires some quiet reflection, or quiet meditation.

- a. It’s what we need to do as the song says, “Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.”

- H. Be respectful toward authorities (at all levels), and do what they tell you to do.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:13-17.
 - a. The folks to whom Peter was writing were already in enough trouble, just simply because they were serving Christ. No need to make any more trouble, any unnecessary trouble. They needed to do all they could to commend themselves to the authorities.
 - 2. As pointed out in the previous lesson, you can't be lawbreaker and lead a quiet life.
- I. If you lead, do so with humility, and with the utmost concern for those whom you lead.
 - 1. Did Jesus lead quiet life? Of course—read Matthew 12:15-20.
 - 2. Ecclesiastes 9:17 fits in very well with what we just read about Jesus.
 - 3. If you're the kind of leader that always has to "shout," the kind that always has to be heard, you'll make a lot of noise, but you'll have a difficult time gaining respect.
- J. Teach and practice the truth, without compromise.
 - 1. Or, to use the language of Scripture, "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).
 - 2. That's how you keep things quiet in a local church—by being determined to only teach and practice that for which we have crystal clear authority from Jesus Christ (and being able to offer the proof needed).
 - 3. It's those who do otherwise who keep things stirred up, who cause divisions and offenses (Romans 16:17).