

Living the Faith



The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. And the tailgater was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

The policeman said, “I’m very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him. I noticed the ‘What Would Jesus Do’ bumper sticker, the ‘Choose Life’ license plate holder, the ‘Follow Me to Sunday School’ bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally ... I assumed you had stolen the car.”

This is not an original story from me, but copied from a Facebook post. It might be an exaggeration, but it gives a very clear message. People who see your symbols of faith anticipate you will be serious about those statements, and live your faith. Our faith speaks of compassion, forgiveness and caring about other people. When we act contrary to our faith, it bursts a big bubble about ourselves and the believability of what our faith teaches us. It certainly does more harm to the Christian movement than if you didn’t profess our faith at all.

Consider these revealing questions:

- Do we advertise we are a Christian but, at times, act otherwise?
- Are the bumper stickers, crosses on our necklaces and the display of Christian symbols just an act?
- Are we trying to impress people with our pious appearance, but are really something different in real life?
- Is our Christian faith something to feel good about during the positive times of our life, but we throw it out the window when times get tough?



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It is great to promote the faith by displaying Christian symbols. Jesus wants us to share our faith with others. God will give you strength to do this, and we hope people will see the difference in how we live our life because our faith provides us with peace and grace. But, when we identify ourselves as Christians but act otherwise, we do a disservice to the encouragement of others. *Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person (1 John 2:4)*. The stronger the statement we make about being a Christian, the bigger target we are to Satan. Satan will place lots of red lights in our path to test us. Some people want to see us mess up to justify their lack of faith. They love to mock hypocrisy as it rationalizes their anti-Christian position.

Let your faith bring you peace in the face of adversity. And, let your actions match the “What Would Jesus Do” sticker. When you try to live up to Jesus’ standards you will do the right thing.

Scripture: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).*

Prayer: Lord. We thank you for showing us how to live our lives. We pray we will tell others about you and then do our best to live a life in keeping with your teachings. Amen.