

Series: The Jesus Way
THE JESUS WAY: ENTER

1. How do many Christians define success?

A. Material blessings

1. Personal wealth and power
Comfortable homes, nice clothes, good jobs
2. Congregations with beautiful facilities, budgets oversubscribed, visible growth

B. Accomplishments

1. People who believe in you and what you're doing.
2. Popularity, a la Rick Warren or Bill Hybels.

C. Obvious spirituality: radiant, effervescent, holy (standing out like nuns at a Shiners' convention)

1. Answered prayer every time
2. Evidence of the Holy Spirit.
3. "Otherworldliness," i.e., separation from the world in lifestyle, dress, habits, and from other Christians who aren't as holy as we are!

D. Spiritual wisdom

Question: Is God a Person or a Formula? i.e., Does He always respond according to rules, and if He does, aren't we controlling God?

Jesus met few standards of success as we know them today:

2. How should Christians define success? We must stop trying to define a spiritual kingdom by physical boundaries.

1 Timothy 6:6, 11

A. Pursue godliness, not "results"

1. Results do not measure success because:
 - a. We have different gifts: some are called to plant, others to water. God gives the increase.
 - b. We try too hard to do it ourselves.
 - c. Not everything that grows is big, or popular is holy.
2. Our beliefs are shown by what we ARE, not what we profess.

B. Live with reverence for God in the "fear of the LORD"

1. God is not a possession to be obtained or a buddy to pal around with
2. God's Word is not a fact to be learned, a set of verses to be memorized, or a book to buy as a shield against evil. It is living and active.

C. Submission to the will of god

1. Question: To what or whom do you submit? Are you submitting to the expectations of others?
2. What is the will of God that I may submit to it?
 - Faithfulness to Him and his Word
 - Walking with Him.

Matthew 11:28-30; Isaiah 50:10-11

We must be committed to God, not to finding our definition of Him.