

A Dogs Life



Preface

(Jeremiah 21 pt) ⁸ "Furthermore, tell the people, 'This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death. (1 Peter 1) ¹³Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

(Ephesians 4) ¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. (Colossians 1) ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



A Dog's Life

A dog is a very beautiful animal, which is very dear to man. It is also called man's best friend and has been always looked at as a very faithful animal.

Many keep dogs in their houses for protection, some for companionship, some just because they love animals, some just for show, and other reasons. All said and done, dogs are very loving animals and great companions that have keen senses and can be fierce.

I love dogs and so also does God, but in the Bible dogs have been shown in a very different light. They have been projected as lowly animal (*street animal*) or as a fierce animal that attacks in packs.

The Lord taught me such amazing things through the dogs' way of life, keeping the Bible as a template which I like to share with you, through this teaching.

There many standards that man lives by and adopts in this world calling oneself a social being, which can be learnt by looking at the dogs' ways of living.

What am I talking of? Let's take some of them, let's start with: friendship.

What is friendship? Are we as Christians called to be friends?

The Lord taught me this through some events in my life.

One day I was out to work on a client's site visit, which was in the suburbs of Mumbai. It was a remote area which is seeing a lot of development. As I was coming out of this place I passed through a slum area where there were some street dogs around. My attention was caught to small pup which was looking for food near a house. Suddenly I saw a big fierce dog growling stooped down swiftly from a distance and snapped at the pup, holding it in its mouth, it lifted it up and was shaking it in the air. At the same time another dog also came from another direction and caught the pup and both of them were tugging at the pup in the air as it was squeaking in pain. I felt they were going to tear apart the pup any time. The other dogs also were moving into the attack, it was a shocking moment.

Just in time the people around although afraid, threw stones and saved the pup. This incident I would never forget, even at that time I knew that the Lord wanted to teach me something, so I kept it behind my mind.

Again after a few months as I was on a holiday with my family in Bangalore I saw another incident to do with dogs which too was astonishing.

Just outside my brother's bungalow was a bitch (*female dog*) with about a dozen pups. They used to play in front of the bungalow. In the morning after reading the Bible I would sit at the door of the house with my mp3 player hearing worship music and watching the pups play, as everybody in the house were still sleeping.

One day, one of the pups died been run over by a vehicle. My aunt from Mumbai who loved animals, feeling pity, took the dead pup and put it aside and I could not see any effect among the other pups. The next day again another one died and I saw the other pup were actually eating it!

The mother came, looking sad just stood by as her other pups were eating up one of her other own child. When I saw this I asked the Lord, what was He trying to teach me through this? Then slowly things started to unfold.

The dog is called a faithful animal and man's best friend. There was a family I knew where the dog was treated like a family member. It even sat at the dinning table to eat with the other members, it had it own plate. We all

have heard or even experienced incidents of dogs helping man at time of need, or also dying to save its master. But have you not heard of many incidents of man being attacked by dogs and also killed. Even the owner's family members have not been spared nor owners themselves. Aren't they much more than a dog dying for man?

Dogs are good animals and good especially to its master. It will tolerate its master much more than it tolerates other people, but when its patience runs out then it will attack him also.

People of this world (*natural world*) live a dog's life. In many aspects we copy the dog's way of living.

Man's friendship to another has many stories like a dog's faithfulness. But much more are the stories where a friend have brutally attacked the other friend and even killed.

What is friendship?

Friendship according to this world as defined in the Oxford dictionary '*a person with whom one has a bond of mutual affection, typically one exclusive of sexual or family relations*'. Which means two being who get along with each other very well and do not step on each other's toes so much which can not be tolerated.

We as Christians are not supposed to be friends with each other; we are called to be brothers and sisters in Christ. We are part of the same body which is Christ. Calling another follower a friend is insulting the other follower of Christ.

Jesus too got offended when a young man compared Him to these world standards.

Matthew 19

¹⁶And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

¹⁷And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

When the man called Jesus '*good*', still Jesus got offended. This man was not a citizen of the Kingdom of God but of this world and was calling Jesus '*good*' according to this world therefore Jesus got offended.

Good according to one may not be good to another. We can not be good to this world and be children of the Kingdom of God. For the Word of God says in the Gospel of Mark:

Mark 13

¹³All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Luke 16pt

¹³"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other...."

This flesh / carnal world is opposite to God's spiritual world, its standards and its foundations are different and opposite. If you live according to the standards of this world, the people of the world will call you '*good*'. But if you live according to standards of God's spiritual world, then people of this world will not like you and will hate you.

That does not mean that if you are hated by all, you are a good Christian. It means that if you are man pleaser than you can not be a good Christian. It also means if people not in Christ love you very much and have nothing against you then you are not a good Christian.

We as Christians are not called to be '*good*' people (*according to this world*) but are called to be righteous (*good according to God*).



2 Corinthians 5

²⁰*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.* ²¹*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Ephesians 5

⁸*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

As I was reading **Ephesians 5:9** in spirit the Lord led me to replace the comma after goodness with a semi-colon and the scripture made perfect sense.

Ephesians 5 (edited version)

⁸*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness; righteousness and truth ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

We are supposed to be as Christians - children of light, living in the righteousness and truth of God. We are part of the body of Christ, brothers and sisters in Christ. If we are part of the same body then how can we be friends?

Matthew 12

⁴⁸*He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

With relation to other people who are not in Christ, we are called to be merciful and kind to them. We can be friends to them, going out of our way to help them but not compromising with God for them.

With regards to Jesus calling us 'friends' as written in the Gospel of John.

John 15

¹²*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

The Greek word used here is '*Philos*' which means a friend or an associate. If you keep in mind Jesus was human, part of the same body that we are going to be and we too are to take the burden of Jesus to save mankind (*God's children*), then putting the word '*associates*' instead of '*friends*' make true sense.

John 15 (edited version)

¹²*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his associates. ¹⁴You are my associates if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you associates, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

Friendship is well understood when you understand dogs. Dogs are called man's best friends but dogs are good to you if you do not cause inconvenience to them. The day you step on its toes in other words cause inconvenience to it, you test its patience. Like in the first incident where the Lord showed me the terrifying of dogs attacking a pub; they came from all sides and had no mercy when they attacked.

The power of the pack is understood by man therefore in the villages near to the forest, the villagers keep two or more dogs for protection. If there are two or more dogs together then even a wild animal like a tiger would not dare to come. A pack of wild dogs can even chase a lion from its kill.



People of this world are like dogs, there are very good to you when you are good to them. But the moment you do something that causes discomfort to them, they may attack you like a pack of dogs. They will not spare a change to get you. They will finish you or keep hurting you till you are down and on all your fours.

When Jesus was hung on the cross, He described the people around as dogs. These were not just the gentiles as most take it to be, but also the Jews. It included all people of this world who could not see Him as their Savior.

Psalm 22

*¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.*

Another thing to learn from the dogs is about ownership or possessions.

We all have to habit of boasting or being proud that we have material goods. When we start feeling possessive of material things of this world we are like the dogs who lift their legs and mark their territory. The dog does not take the things it marks, nor will we when we leave this world. We only behave like the dogs making claims on the things that we can not take.

We as Christians are not of this world we are aliens. We are just visiting this world; we are citizens of the Kingdom of God which is our rightful dwelling place as children of God.

So, while on our visit in this world we should not change and become part of this world but behave like citizens of God's Kingdom, living in the righteousness and truth of God.

People who have taken the Lord's burden of bringing His sheep back to Him are like ambassadors to God's Kingdom and should behave in that fashion. An ambassador of a country living in any other country will still follow the traditions, even of dressing of his own country. He has total immunity in the host country. Being a senior diplomat, even if he has broken any law of the host country, the host country needs to take permission of the diplomat's country to arrest him, especially if the diplomat's country is a very powerful country. Then the host country may even overlook serious offences; else the powerful forces of that country may attack and destroy them, for just one person.

The other incident where the pubs were eating one of their own was also a shadow of the people of this world. In this world relationship means nothing, the moment you are down some may feel sad for you but soon or later they will gallop you up. You will be like you never existed for them. They may put a photograph of you, but that is all you will get.

We are to be like our elder brother Jesus, He died for us. He came not to take but to give, even when the world was putting Him to death He was still giving, He was giving them life.

Luke 23

³³When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

We as Christian are not to be friends to each other or good people to this world. We are called to be righteous and living with the truth dwelling in us. We are to live fearlessly in this world for we are citizens and ambassadors of the most powerful Kingdom. The people of this world can not touch us without the permission of the Kingdom of God; else the forces of the Kingdom of God will destroy them.

God bless