

## 1 John 1:6

*If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

*“Our righteous acts are not in what we don’t do, but what we do.”*

I heard my pastor speak these words on Sunday, and the Holy Spirit reminded me of how true this is. The old saying goes, *“I don’t cuss, I don’t drink or chew (tobacco), and I don’t go with girls who do.”* For me, it is more of, I don’t drink alcohol, I don’t do drugs, I don’t watch “R”: or “XXX” rated movies. I don’t listen to music that has profanity or glorifies sin. I don’t smoke, I don’t.... We can all go on and on with what we no longer do. And for the most part, we feel righteous because we no longer do those things. Even Paul wrote to the church in Corinth:

† **1 Corinthians 6:11** *And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

This is what you used to be *“And such were some of you.”* But Paul does not leave it at that, he tells them what God did to replace what they (we) used to be. *“But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

I had heart surgery several months ago, and with that, I changed my eating habits by no longer drinking sodas, I stopped eating a bunch of chips, pizza, cookies, sweets and other things that are not good for me or my heart. Now it is good that I stopped eating and drinking these things. But I did not only stop these things, but I also replaced them with healthier foods and drinks. So, now I have more soups that are low in sodium, I eat a lot more fruits and vegetables (Even though I am not a vegetable kind of person) I drink more water, and sparkling water with a hint of flavor in it. With this, even my wife eats healthier (Even though she already ate healthier than I did) so it not only affects and benefits me, but my wife as well.

Some think that God and Jesus are a kill joy, wanting to take all the fun out of life. But those who think that way do not know or remember that Jesus said,

† **John 10:10b** *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Which is a fun, good life here on the earth. God does not want us to act like we are in the waiting room at the doctor’s office reading old magazines, being bored with our lives. But rather to *“Have a more abundant life.”* Not just an abundant life, but a *“more”* abundant life, which means a better life than what we had before we came to Jesus. No, I am not teaching a prosperity gospel, because that is not biblical.

But rather, an abundant life is no longer doing all those bad things that we used to do. But a “*more*” abundant life is replacing those bad things with the good things of God. Like listening to clean, Christian music, instead of the junk we used to listen to. Reading God’s word instead of filling our hearts and minds with the junk Hollywood tries to force on us. No longer being drunk and going out drinking and partying, but rather.

† **Ephesians 5:18 (NLT2)** *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,*

Even God said through the prophet Ezekiel:

† **Ezekiel 36:26** *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

Notice, God will not only remove the old sinful heart but also replace that old sinful heart with a new heart, one that is pleasing to God and worships Him, and not the world.

So yes, let’s continue to get rid of the old things that are bad for us, but let’s also replace them with the new things God has for us.

† **Revelation 21:5** *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."*

† **Romans 6:4** *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*