

Evidence

By Shirley Carson

If I were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me? When this thought-provoking question came to me some time ago, I realized it required a deep inward searching for an answer. Thinking about this question brought my thoughts to another question. What is a Christian? To me, a Christian is one who lives in Christ and allows Christ to live in him.

From the beginning, God had a great plan of salvation worked out for all of humanity. He sent Jesus Christ, His only son, to die on a cross and thereby pay the price for our salvation. It is a free gift for all who believe on his name; and yet, we have to be willing to pay a price, also. We must allow God to map the course our lives will take, and be content with it. Following His map for our lives is what living within God's will is all about. To live in Christ, there must be a full surrender of our will. We must be able to say with Paul, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain". Philippians 1: 21 (NIV)

Looking at the question of evidence, Christians must be like Christ. We learn how to embrace the character of Christ through reading the Bible, and praying. Each of us needs a quiet place where we can become refreshed and renewed daily. I am endeavoring to do this in my own life, and have found it is a matter of discipline to get this accomplished daily. The joy coming from God during these

times is unspeakable, and he is teaching me how to live for him. Through my daily devotional life, I have come face to face with God's love for me. He loves me with an unconditional love and wants me to love others in the same way. As I evaluate the evidence in my own life, I have asked myself these questions:

- How do I treat others?
- Do I show God's love to those who are unlovable?
- Am I regularly in church?
- Could someone tell I am a Christian by my lifestyle?
- Am I pleasing Christ in all I do?
- Do I love God with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- How do I measure up?

If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Think about it.

Shirley Carson is a member of the Olathe Christian Writer's Guild. The Guild meets on the second Thursday of each month at College Church of the Nazarene and is open to new members. For more information contact Madonna Ozman at (913) 345-0759 or by email at: mjo66@hotmail.com .