

'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'

(The Life of Christ Series)

Studies in Luke's Gospel

The Kosher Christian Home

When someone says *'that's not kosher'* do you know what they mean? The Hebrew word 'kosher' is said by Jewish people in reference to their food and how it's prepared. In God's Mosaic Law in the Old Testament, certain foods (like pork, shell-fish, etc.) are forbidden (not 'kosher') for Jewish people. In a more general sense, a 'kosher' Jewish home entailed even more obedience like Sabbath-keeping, faithfulness to the moral and religious law, as well as the dietary restrictions.

No doubt the Lord Jesus grew up for 30 years in a very *kosher home* with Joseph and Mary as His parents and eventually four younger brothers and at least two younger sisters (**Mark 6:3**). Because Jesus' parents knew Who He was and that the entire Old Testament Law was given by Him in the first place, you can be sure everything was done 'fittingly' and 'appropriately' (the literal meaning of '**kosher**').

It must have been a blessing to the whole family those thirty years as the original '**kosher Christian home**' was established. With Messiah, God in the flesh, living there and growing up physically in it, I think that it must have ordinarily been a little bit of heaven on earth, during Christ's stay in His home away from Home, in Nazareth.

Following Christ's sacrifice for our sins on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, things have changed in regard to a 'kosher home' for New Testament Christians. We are no longer legalistically obliged to follow the Jewish dietary restrictions of the Old Testament (**Acts 10, Colossians 2:16-17, etc.**). We are no longer obliged to keep the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) (**Colossians 2:16, Hebrews 4:3-10**), nor do we have to keep the symbolic Jewish festivals of Israel's calendar (**Colossians 2:16-17**).

Although, in Christ, we do not live in a theocratic nation like Jewish people. Keeping the religious and cultural laws of Israel do not pertain to us, but the spiritual and moral parts of God's Law still are for New Testament Christians today.

But this said, the 'kosher Christian home' today should be one with the same sort of spiritual attitudes, biblical principles and moral excellence that Jesus enjoyed in the home of Joseph and Mary. Christians today should seek to always make their homes places where Jesus' unseen presence positively affects the attitude, speech, and behavior of everyone in the family.

Since Christ's Spirit dwells within us making believers the temple of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20**), it is 'kosher' ('appropriate and fitting') that our outer life in the family home be just as God-honoring as our private life within in order for the Lord Jesus to feel just as 'at home' within our residences, as He is within in our hearts. Let's make this one of our top priority goals this coming year, okay?

Consider **Ephesians 3:14-21** as our theme prayer for each other, especially our marriages, families, and homes this year, okay? If we do, I have no doubt that our hearts and homes will be places where the Savior will: "...**grow (us), strengthen (us) in spirit and fill (us) with wisdom and cause the grace of God to be upon (us)**" (**Luke 2:40**). A 2019 '**kosher Christian home**' for your Savior to reside in this year is very 'fitting and appropriate', don't you agree?

~PtL

“The Growth of God”
(The Childhood, Teenage, & Young Adult Years of Jesus)
 Luke 2:39-52

Jesus, the Boy
(Growth in Grace/ age 2 – 12)
 vs. 39-40

“So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. **And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him.**”

The Word to Children: <i>Exodus 20:12</i> <i>(Commandment #1 to #5)</i> <i>Ephesians 6:1-3</i> <i>Colossians 3:20</i>	The Word to Parents: <i>Deuteronomy 6:1-8</i> <i>Matthew 18:6-11</i> <i>Psalms 78:4-8</i> <i>Ephesians 6:4</i> <i>Proverbs 13-24</i> <i>Colossians 3:21</i>
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Jesus, the Teen
(About the Father’s Business/ age 12-20)
 vs. 41-50

“His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And **when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.** When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it, but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that **after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers,** both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.” And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? **Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?**” But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.”

The Word to Teenagers: <i>Deuteronomy 5:16-21</i> <i>(Commandments #1 - #10)</i> <i>1 Timothy 4:12-16</i> <i>Samuel, David, Daniel</i>	The Word to Parents: <i>Joshua 24:15</i> <i>2 Timothy 1:5-7, 3:14-17</i> <i>Psalms 127-128</i> <i>Titus 2:6-8</i> <i>Proverbs 1-10</i>
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Jesus, the Young Adult
(Favor with God and Man/ age 20-30)
 vs. 51-52

“Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was **subject to them,** but His mother kept all these things in her heart. **And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**”

The Word to Adult Believers: <i>Psalms 90:10-17 (by Moses)</i> <i>Proverbs 25-31</i> <i>Ecclesiastes 12</i>	<i>Philippians 3:12-14</i> <i>2 Timothy 4:6-8</i>
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