



IMITATING JESUS CHRIST

» I often ask myself: What would Jesus do?

In all aspects of life, and especially in their witness, Christians are called to follow the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, sharing his love, giving glory and honour to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

JESUS IS MY EXAMPLE – DOES THIS OVERWHELM ME?

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Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 2; Photo: Hartmut Schwarzbach



ACTING IN GOD'S LOVE

» God? Is love!

Christians believe that God is the source of all love and, accordingly, in their witness they are called to live lives of love and to love their neighbour as themselves.

IS MY LIFE A TESTIMONY OF MY FAITH?

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Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 1; Photo: Hartmut Schwarzbach



CHRISTIAN VIRTUES

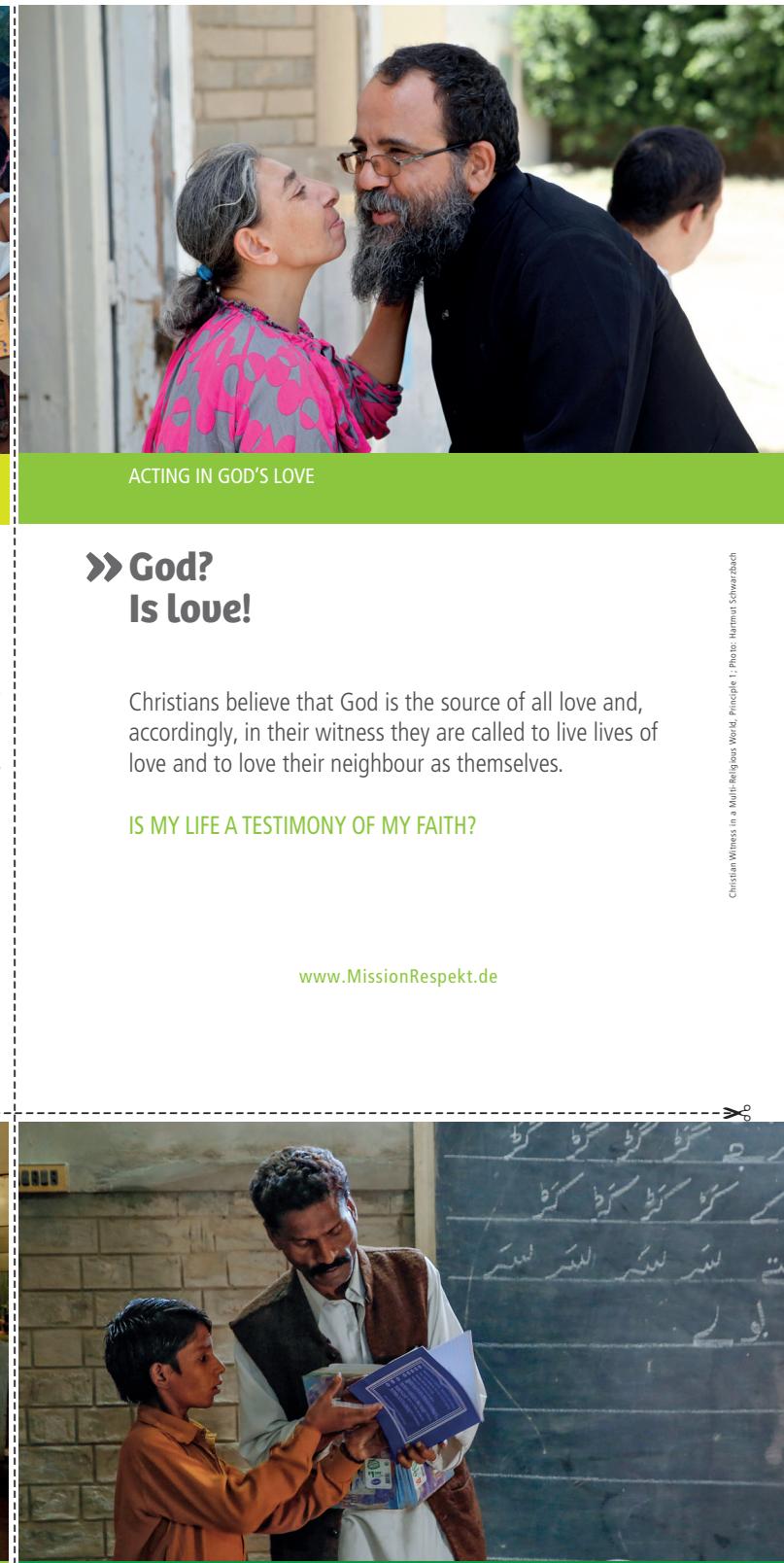
» As a Christian, I try to put others before myself.

Christians are called to conduct themselves with integrity, charity, compassion and humility, and to overcome all arrogance, condescension and disparagement.

WHICH CHRISTIAN VIRTUES ARE IMPORTANT TO ME?

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Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 3; Photo: Hartmut Schwarzbach



ACTS OF SERVICE AND JUSTICE

To testify to my faith, I engage in action.

Christians are called to act justly and to love compassionately. They are further called to serve others and in so doing to recognize Christ in the least of their sisters and brothers. Acts of service, such as providing education, health care, relief services and acts of justice and advocacy are an integral part of witnessing to the gospel. The exploitation of situations of poverty and need has no place in Christian outreach.

WHAT COULD I DO TO PUT MY FAITH INTO ACTION?

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Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 4; Photo: Hartmut Schwarzbach



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WHAT COULD I DO TO PUT MY FAITH INTO ACTION?

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REJECTION OF VIOLENCE

» Ultimately, love is stronger than violence.

Christians are called to reject all forms of violence, even psychological or social, including the abuse of power in their witness. They also reject violence, unjust discrimination or repression by any religious or secular authority, including the violation or destruction of places of worship, sacred symbols or texts.

WHAT AM I EXPERIENCING AS VIOLENCE THAT I OVERCOME BY MEEKNESS?

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FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF

» Men and women can freely decide what they believe!

Religious freedom includes the right to publicly profess, practice, propagate and change one's religion. This freedom springs directly from the dignity of the human person, which has as its source the creation of every human being in the image and likeness of God. Where any religion is used as a tool for political ends, or where religious persecution occurs, Christians are called as prophetic witness to denounce such actions.

DO I APPRECIATE THE FREEDOM IN WHICH I CAN LIVE MY FAITH?

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MUTUAL RESPECT AND SOLIDARITY

» Respect and solidarity – this applies to everyone.

Christians are called to commit themselves to work with all people in mutual respect, together promoting justice, peace and the common good. Interreligious cooperation is an essential dimension of such commitment.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE?

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RESPECT FOR ALL PEOPLE

» Without the questions that Jesus poses to me, my life would be boring.

Christians recognize that the gospel both challenges and enriches cultures. Even when the gospel challenges certain aspects of cultures, Christians are called to respect all people. Christians are also called to discern elements in their own cultures that are challenged by the gospel.

DO I HEAR THE QUESTIONS THAT THE GOSPEL RAISES?

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RENUNCING FALSE WITNESS

» When I meet others, I'll listen first.

Christians are to speak sincerely and respectfully; they are to listen in order to learn about and understand others' beliefs and practices, and are encouraged to acknowledge and appreciate what is true and good in these. Any comment or critical approach should be made in a spirit of mutual respect, making sure not to bear false witness concerning other religions.

IS IT EASY FOR ME TO LISTEN TO OTHERS?

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ENSURING PERSONAL DISCERNMENT

» To decide on faith issues – that takes time.

Christians are to acknowledge that changing one's religion is a decisive step. It must be accompanied by a sufficient time period in order to ensure adequate reflection and preparation, in a process which guarantees full personal freedom.

WHEN DID I LAST COMMIT MYSELF TO MY CHRISTIAN FAITH?

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BUILDING INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

» Other religions? These are my partners.

Christians should continue to build relationships marked by respect and trust with people of different religions, so as mutually to facilitate deeper understanding, reconciliation and cooperation for the common good.

TO WHOM DOES MY FAITH IN GOD CONNECT ME ACROSS BOUNDARIES?

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Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 9; Photo: Friedrich Stark

Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 11; Photo: Peter Jonas

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Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 10; Photo: Stefan Voges

Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Principle 12; Photo: Friedrich Stark