Biblical Life vs. Death Illustrated

"Why do you say 'Lord, Lord,' but don't do what I say..."

Luke 6:46

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven."

Matthew 7:21

There is a culture that belongs to Heaven and a culture that belongs to Hell. The Bible sums these up as "life" and "death." The Bible also describes the "saved" and "unsaved" through the lens of "life" or "death."

We must be careful that we do not create an alternative to Scripture, and yet, we so often do. The middle circle in the illustration below identifies some typical ways we describe salvation. Instead of the biblical definition of life, we cling to the claims in the circle, even if our lifestyles are more characteristic of death than of life. However, the Bible does not have an option where we can be saved and live like the unsaved.

We can believe or not believe what the Bible says, but we don't get to *redefine* it! We either belong to life or we belong to death, evidenced by the trajectory and fruit of our lives. The clear truth in Scripture is that the saved are being sanctified through faith and obedience to Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. So, we are not "sinless," but we must continue to sin *less*. *Romans 6-8; 1 John 2-3*

DEATH

What the unsaved look like

Sexual immorality • Carousing Drunkenness • Impurity • Drugs

Selfish ambition • Unfaithfulness

Faith without works • Lust

Murder • Idolatry

Unbelief • Greed

Lover of the world

Lover of self

Self-indulgence

Ongoing sin • Unmerciful

Unrighteous speech

Godlessness • Theft

Lack of self-control • Adultery

Slander • Habitual lying • Calls evil "good"

"I prayed the prayer."

"I go to church."

"I listen to Christian music."

"I tithe."

"I go on mission trips."

"I teach in children's church."

"I lead a Sunday School class."

"I've been to Bible college."

"I've been baptized and confirmed."

"I've re-dedicated my life"

LIFE

What the saved look like

Peacemaking • Patience • Kindness

A good tree bearing good fruit

Self-control • A living sacrifice

Submissive • Considerate

Teacher of what is good

Sober and soberminded

Righteousness

Discipleship-oriented

Salt • Holy • Humble

Practices good deeds

Generous • Gospel witness

Kingdom-oriented • Temperate

Others-focused • Imitator of Christ

Abides in Christ • Obedient to Christ

