

ALL THAT AND A BAG OF CHIPS

Julia Bettencourt

April 23, 2022

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

I have a bunch of those little clips that you put on food packages. I have some bright colored ones and even some green ones that look like cute frogs. They are handy to clip to a bag of potato chips, baking chips, or any food in a bag that I want to save after I open it.



I also keep a few clothespins handy for clipping up food bags when I run out of those clips. Clothespins do in a pinch (no pun intended).

And what is the purpose of those little clips? Well, food preservation of course!

We want our food to taste good. We want the flavor to stay inside the bag. We want things to stay firm and not wimpy. We don't want outside elements getting to our food and making it soggy either. We want our food to be fresh and crisp. And food is expensive, so we want it to last longer. So, therefore, if we are concerned about it, we either put our leftovers in some type of storage container or we clip it in a bag. We want to preserve that food.

What can we do to be preserved as Christians? Well, all throughout the New Testament we are encouraged to live like Christ. It's that *Christian living* that so many of those books and epistles of the New Testament teach us about. *Christian living* is our "clip" so to speak.

Let's remember it by using an acronym.

CLIP

Christian
Living
Invites
Preservation

It's all about Christ living in me as it talks about in Galatians 2:20

...yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...

Christian living can enhance our lives and bring out our best flavor. Let's look at six things that living for Christ can do to promote that preservation of us as children of God.

1 LIVING FOR CHRIST KEEPS US FRESH

One of the reasons we clip our foods is that we want it to be fresh the next time we dig into it.

Christian living will make us the ones that freshen up the world. It will make us the bright spot in someone's day. It will make us the encouragers, the uplifters, and the comforters. Living for Christ has the power to make us impact the world in a positive way.

If we are living for and like Christ, we will add that freshness to the world that it so needs. We won't be living and acting in the flesh, but we will shine our lights for Christ and exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.

2 LIVING FOR CHRIST WILL KEEP US FROM GETTING STALE

Staleness is a bad thing when it comes to food. When food starts getting stale, it starts losing all the good things like texture, flavor, and taste. And sometimes stale food doesn't even smell good.

And do we want to be a stale Christian? No! We aren't going to be steering people to Christ so easily if we leave a bad taste on the world. Christians should be full of excitement and joy. Jesus lived, died, and rose again for us!

Look at the end of Galatians 2:20. Jesus "gave" Himself for us. We have victory through Jesus, and He is the giver of joy and peace.

3 LIVING FOR CHRIST WILL MAKE US AVOID THE HARMFUL STUFF

When we keep our food tightly sealed, we keep out the bacteria, dust, and harmful things in the air. It keeps out the moisture and other things that can make our food vulnerable.

When we live for Christ and keep our lives tightly run by God's Word and prayer, we will keep out the bad stuff that can affect us too. If we live for Christ daily, we will be better able to handle that sin and temptation that wants to come sneaking into the cracks and crevices of our lives.

Living for Christ seals us tightly.

4 LIVING FOR CHRIST WILL MAKE US LAST LONGER

Food storage makes our food last longer. It won't go bad so fast.

Living for Christ will help us last longer as Christians too. It has the power to sustain us. When we live for Christ, we allow Him to be our strength. We allow the Lord to carry our burdens.

Christian living helps us to endure.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13

5 LIVING FOR CHRIST WILL MAKE US STAND FIRM

Clipping our chips or any of those bagged food items will help preserve their firmness. It will keep those chips and pretzels crisp like we like them. It will keep our bags of pasta firm until we cook it.

Christian living can have that effect on us. The more we actively live for Christ, the stronger our faith will be. We will be able to stand up to any sin that may come creeping in because we are strong in our faith. It will help us endure the trials that may come. It will help us stand firmly on God's Word and godly principles.

Living for and like Christ will keep our feet firmly planted.

6 LIVING FOR CHRIST WILL HELP US KEEP OUR QUALITY

Food quality is an important thing to think about even before storing it correctly or pinching it in a bag with a clip. Most people like to eat the best food they can find or best they can afford on their budget.

When it comes to quality in food, we look at the color, texture, size, and all those things that are important to us.

And as Believers in Christ, we must live for Him to preserve that quality of love that we should have.

You know those little stickers that we sometimes see on food packaging or on individual pieces of fruit that say something about the quality of the product. Maybe, it's a "freshness quality" or maybe it is "quality checked" by a certain group or board. Or maybe it is even "quality sealed".

As Christians, love is what we should have invisibly marked on us as a quality seal. Others should see that this Christian "Upholds the love quality". That's that thing that Jesus said we will be known by in John 13.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

FINAL THOUGHTS

Food can be so vulnerable to outside elements. The things that air, moisture, dust, sun, heat, cold, bacteria, and even bugs can do to food is unreal. And think about just how far that food sometimes travels to get to us in crates, boxes, trains, planes, boats, and trucks. That's why we clip it, put it in food storage containers, or wrap it tightly in foil or plastic wrap. We want to preserve it because it's already vulnerable when we get it from the grocery store.

As Christians, our hearts are so vulnerable to unwholesome elements too. The things that bad attitudes, unforgiving spirits, lying, pride, greed, and sin in general can do to us is beyond comprehension.

There are consequences to our actions. We will lose what we are made up of if we don't watch out!

That's why we need to preserve ourselves by living for Christ. *Christian living* invites preservation. Living for Christ will get us on our way to keeping our joy, keeping our tongues, and keeping our hearts in tune with Christ. It will get us on our way to blocking out the worldly attitudes. It will get us on our way to showing that love for Christ that should be our key quality in life.

Christian living will keep us in the best and freshest shape.

You may have heard that saying, "Oh, they are all that and a bag of chips". That means they are special. That means they are above the ordinary. That means they have great quality.

Oh, if we could only be "all that and a bag of chips" for the Lord by living for Him and living Christ-like. We aren't to be here living for ourselves. When we go back to our verse in Galatians, we see that it isn't us, but it is Christ living in and through us that is important.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

I hope I can wrap myself tight in the Lord and live every day for Him. I know it's how I'm going to be preserved and persevere. I know it's how I am going to handle the harshness that may come billowing down on my bag of life.

So, are you keeping preserved by the way you live?