

be made whole physically, psychologically and spiritually (and socially, as far as possible). He cannot do a ward round or see a patient without keeping this as his aim, without seeking opportunities to put this into practice. He does not say or think that this is competing with his practice or responsibilities, no, this is what he is competing for, this is what he's practicing for! He rejoices when his patient personally encounters Jesus Christ and is made whole spiritually - for him this is the ultimate healing he literally labours for. He can and does lead patients to Christ. He shows the way, because he knows the Way, personally.

A Christian doctor knows that "we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the world rulers of this dark age, against the wicked spirits in the heavenly places...". He knows that disease and dis-ease are sometimes caused by demonic bondage in a person's life (as many non-Christians also know), and...that the cure lies not in pills or psychological pampering, but in true repentance and aggressive, practical, biblically sound, spiritual prayer warfare - based on Christ's victory on the Cross. In this treatment he is completely different from all non-Christian doctors.

A Christian doctor sees Jesus as his ultimate Role-Model, both in every consultation and in the ministry of whole person medicine and healing.

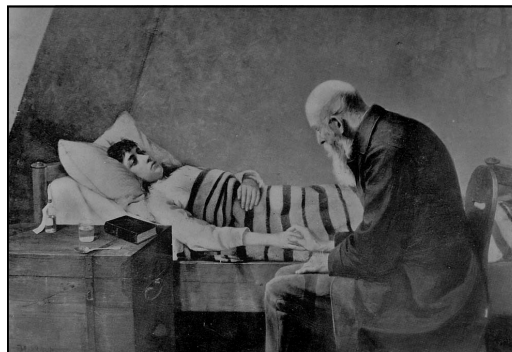
Together with David, **a Christian doctor** can say : "I have set the Lord always before me...". This means that in each consultation and patient-interaction, the Person of Christ has pre-eminence over the person of the patient, as well as over the person of the doctor. He shuns any trace of what may be described as "psychic immediacy" between him and a patient, especially of the opposite sex. His consultations are Christ-centred and Christ-mediated. He believes and seeks to increasingly experience that "...from Him and through Him and to Him are all things", also in the practice of medicine.

A Christian doctor has one passion, one goal, one purpose, one standard – **Jesus!** All else is considered as dung, compared to the riches of knowing Christ and making Him known, especially in and through serving those that are sick. He shows this practically in the program and priorities of every day.

O friends, what a high calling and privilege we have! To be Christian doctors! To be Christ's doctors in this sick, lost and wounded world!

Is this how we practice medicine? Are we Christian doctors? Or do we feel this is "impractical", this is "too high"? Is it too high for Him to make us so - for His glory?

May the Lord Jesus help us - for His Name's sake.

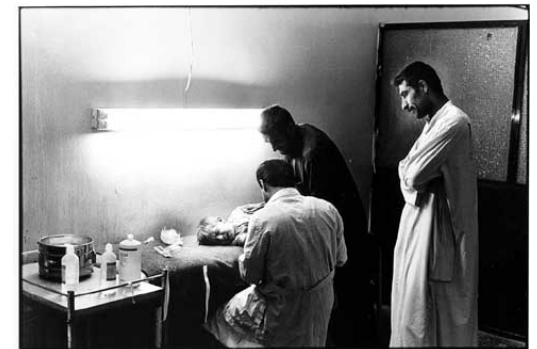


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Are we Christian Doctors?



**Healing
without Christ
is sick!**

Jivannadi Mission

Are we Christian Doctors - as Jesus wants us to be?

If Christian doctors are not different from other doctors, it's likely that they will not make any real difference either. We may ask ourselves - Are we different? Do we make a difference? Are we **Christian** doctors? These and other questions have been burning in my heart and mind for many months. It is my prayer to write and share some thoughts with you in the Spirit of Christ and for His sake.

*Are we
Christian
doctors?*

What does it mean to be a Christian doctor?

It is obvious that being a “**Christian doctor**” is different from being just “a doctor”...but, what's the difference? Does this difference lie in his or her “caring” and “compassion”? I'd say, “No”, there are non-Christian doctors that show more caring and compassion than some Christian doctors. Is it in his patience? No, some non-Christian doctors are seemingly much more patient. Is it in his clinical competence? Once more, we should say, “No” – neither clinical competence, nor “caring”, nor “compassion”, nor “patience” make me a Christian doctor. The only real difference is **Christ**. I can be caring, compassionate, conscientious, calm, careful, patient and clinically competent, but if **Christ** is not present and real in me and in the interaction with the patient, then I'm no different than a non-Christian doctor, no different than a heathen humanist. Even in the practice of medicine Christ-i-anity without Christ is “I”-anity.

Some of us (though I am afraid not so many) can say that we are not self-centred any more in our

consultations, nor disease-centred, but rather patient-centred,...but even this does not make us different from some non-Christian doctors. The question is not only whether we are self-centred, or disease-centred, or patient-centred, or not, but rather : **are we Christ-centred in all our patient interactions?** If not, then where is Christ in our practice of medicine? To come back to what it means to be a Christian doctor...

A Christian doctor is a doctor for whom Christ is an all-consuming personal passion and bright Reality. Christ has become his Life, his All, in everything. He does not live any more for himself, but for Him (and for others for His sake). He has surrendered himself completely and unreservedly to live for Jesus alone, seeking to only do His will in everything,...in walking with Him, knowing Him, loving Him, reflecting Him and making Him known to others – to His glory. He has come to the end of himself and seeks to unselfishly and sacrificially serve God and others (through God). He is not an ordinary doctor any more, but extra-ordinary, because his life cannot be accounted for, but for the supernatural powerful grace of the living God. The main characteristic of his life is not that he is a doctor, but that he is a Christian, that Christ is his life.

*Are we
Christ-centered
in all our
patient
interactions?*

A Christian doctor loves Christ...more than he loves his “work” and his patients; also more than he loves his family and himself, or anyone or anything else.

A Christian doctor is a doctor who has met God, so deeply and so radically, that his heart and mind and life and priorities have changed completely – he has undergone a complete metamorphosis – he has been born again from above. He has conse-

quently said goodbye to all that he was and had. Out of a heartfelt love for Christ he has separated himself from the worldly system and all sin. He does not think and reason like the world any more. He now has the mind of Christ and is starting to think the thoughts of God in all matters (including patient care).

A Christian doctor is saved from all his sins. He is cleansed from all uncleanness. He has personal victory over sin, including the sins of impatience, pride, laziness, covetousness, lust, lying, unbelief and busyness. His thoughts and eyes are clean and his words are clear and pure (without any double meaning). By God's grace he is not a slave to any desire or lust. He lives filled with the Holy Spirit.

To a **Christian doctor** eternal realities far outweigh temporal realities. He sees all God-given work as worship. He does not un-biblically, artificially dissect out the “secular” from the “spiritual”, but he acknowledges and knows the Lord in everything he does (from listening to a patient to cutting his toenails). His work, witness, worship, and walk with the Lord are all one....and supernaturally natural. He does not speak or think any more of “my” time, “my” life, “my” practice, “my” profession, “my” patients – for him all is now “His”!

*A Christian doctor
loves Christ...*

A Christian doctor has no peace until his patients have peace with God too. He cannot rest by just “saying a prayer” for a patient, but lives in prayer and is eager to offer heartfelt prayers to God for and with his patients. Like the apostle Paul, he “travails in birth” until Christ is formed in his patients.

A Christian doctor does not just seek to bring physical healing, no, he has a practical passion (shown in definite daily deeds) that his patients will