Lesson #

Christology-The Character of Christ

9

Lesson Commenced: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lesson Completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* In this lesson we are going to study the character of Christ. In other words, we are going to see what kind of person Jesus Christ really was. We often sing or pray “I want to be like Jesus,” and yet when we stop and think about it, what are we saying and what do we mean. “I want to be like Jesus.” The comment and desire are most noble, and most Christians probably are sincere in their affection. However, we need to emulate Him in more than one point. There are some points when the emulation of Christ is Satanic. You say, “No!” “Yeah!!!” “uh huh!”

\* The greatest imitator of the Lord Jesus Christ was the Devil. He is the perfect counterfeiter of Christ.

* Jesus Christ is spoken of as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah ***Revelation 5:5***

The devil is spoken of as a roaring lion ***1 Peter 5:8***

* Jesus Christ is spoken of as the Prince Messiah, Anointed One ***Daniel 9:25***

The devil is spoken of as “the anointed cherub that covereth” ***Ezekiel 28:14***

The devil is spoken of as “The prince of the power of the air” ***Ephesians 2:2***

* Jesus Christ is called “The King of kings and Lord of lords” ***Revelation 17:14***

The devil is called “the king over the children of pride” ***Job 41:34***

* The theophany of Jesus Christ in the O.T. was the “Angel of the Lord ***“Numbers 22:35***

Satan is transformed into an “angel of light” ***2 Corinthians 11:14***

The devil is called the “god of this world” ***2 Corinthians 4:4***

\* So, when we talk about “being like Christ” we must be ever on the alert and always careful never to confuse this with imitation. The imitation Christ, or imitation of Christ, is the work of Satan. Christ is our example, not only in action but also in character.

“For even h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ were y \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us a \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, that ye should f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_:” ***1 Peter 2:21***

\* Along in this study we will try to apply what we learn about the Lord’s character to our own characters. What good is it to have a Saviour to look up to if we have no desire to be like Him? The Scriptures tell us that this is part of the reason that the Lord saved us was to change us into the image of His Son. This is not a fairytale story of change the Lord wants for us and intends to perform in us, but real changes on the outside that result from changes on the inside. God the Holy Ghosts mission is to mold us into the image of Christ. You ask any Christian who has been a Christian for some time and they will tell you that you will love the person that Jesus is turning you into. It doesn’t come easy and requires a lot of sacrifice and sincerity, but its fruit is eternal fruit in us and beautiful. The more you get, the more you want. Christ’s character!

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate t \_ b \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ t \_ \_ i \_ \_ \_ \_

o \_ h \_ \_ S \_ \_, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” ***Romans 8:29***

\* This image that the Bible is teaching that the Lord is turning us into begins at salvation, when a person is born-again, and God the Holy Ghost enters the new believer. He begins to mold us, and it will be accomplished at Christ’s return when we get our new bodies like unto His glorious body. To be conformed into Christ’s image is to be conformed into His character. *Like Jesus*!

“Beloved, n \_ \_ a \_ \_ w \_ the sons of God, and it d \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_ y \_ \_ appear what we shall be: but w \_ k \_ \_ \_ that, when he shall appear, w \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ b \_ l \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_; for we shall see him as he is.” ***1 John 3:2***

“Who shall c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ v \_ \_ \_ b \_ \_ \_, that it may be f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” ***Philippians 3:21***

The Character of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. ***Holiness* was part of Christ's character**

The Lord Jesus Christ once said to the Pharisees in the Gospel of John that there was “no unrighteousness in Him.” He claimed to be sinless.

“He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the s \_ \_ \_ i \_ t \_ \_ \_, and n \_ u \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ i \_ i \_ h \_ \_.” ***John 7:18***

Anybody that tried to make a claim like that would be laughed at and called a fool. But Jesus Did. We covered this in depth in our study of the sinlessness of Christ. Jesus Christ was holy, absolutely holy. He did not commit any sin known to man or God and always did that which was correct and pure. Peter referred to Jesus’ character as holy.

“But ye denied t \_ \_ H \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ and t \_ \_ J \_ \_ \_, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;” ***Acts 3:14***

The Saviour manifested His holiness by loving righteousness and hating iniquity. We seen an example of this when He cleansed the temple in ***Matthew 23***. He showed His hatred of iniquity and openly condemned sin and hypocrisy.

A man who loves everything is being manipulated by devils. True holiness has as a part of its character hatred.

“Thou hast l \_ \_ \_ \_ r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, a \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ i \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

***Hebrews 1:9***

“P \_ \_ \_ \_ all things; h \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ that which i \_ g \_ \_ \_.” ***1 Thessalonians 5:21***

“Let l \_ \_ \_ be without dissimulation. A \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ which is evil; c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ t \_ \_ \_ which is good.” ***Romans 12:9***



1. ***Love* was part of Christ’s character**

The Saviours love was manifested in two ways.

* *In His love for the Father.*

This is perfectly apparent by His statements to do the Fathers will. His express indication that He came to carry out the Fathers will is a valid purpose for laying down His life for the sheep because His Father desired it to be so. The proof of His sincerity is the fact that in Gethsemane, He left it up to the Father.

“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: n \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_ m \_ w \_ \_ \_, b \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ \_, be done.” ***Luke 22:42***

“But that the world may know that \_ l \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_; and as the Father gave me commandment, e \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ d \_. Arise, let us go hence.” ***John 14:31***

He showed His love by obedience to the Father.

“For I came down from heaven, n \_ \_ to do m \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_, but the will o \_ h \_ \_

t \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ m \_.” ***John 6:38***

Jesus finished the work that His Father gave Him to do.

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ which

thou gavest me to do.” ***John 17:4***

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, I \_ i \_

f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” ***John 19:30***

Complete devotion and allegiance is evidence of love in character.

* *In His love toward mankind.*

The Lord Jesus Christ “showed” His love. The supreme proof of His love was His “voluntarily” dying for sinners. He showed enough love for the unsaved world to shed His blood for their sins.

“For G \_ \_ s \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_ the world, that h \_ g \_ \_ \_ his o \_ \_ \_ b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” ***John 3:16***

“For ye know the g \_ \_ \_ \_ of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ w \_ \_ r \_ \_ \_, yet f \_ \_ y \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

***2 Corinthians 8:9***

“G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ n \_ m \_ \_ than this, that a man l \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_for his friends.” ***John 15:13***

“For when w \_ were yet w \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, in due time C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ u \_, in that, w \_ \_ \_ \_ w \_ w \_ \_ \_ y \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, Christ died f \_ \_ u \_.” ***Romans 5:6-8***

“For the Son of man is come to s \_ \_ \_ and t \_ s \_ \_ \_ that which was lost.” ***Luke 19:10***

Jesus Christ loved sinners and showed His love for them. Jesus showed a special love for saved sinners. He has a special love for His own.

“Husbands, love your wives, e \_ \_ \_ a \_ C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_ \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_ t\_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and

g \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for it;” ***Ephesians 5:25***

“Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ o \_ \_ which were in the world, h \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ e \_ \_.” ***John 13:1***

Jesus showed how He obeyed His own teaching by loving His enemies and praying for them.

“But I say unto you, L \_ \_ \_ y \_ \_ \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, b \_ \_ \_ \_ them that curse you, d \_

g \_ \_ \_ to them that hate you, and p \_ \_ \_ for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;” ***Matthew 5:44***

“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will h \_ \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, b \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.”

***Matthew 9:13***

The Lords love for others even drove His speech while on the cross. What would you be thinking about while being executed on a Roman cross? Would it be others? Jesus was.

“Then s \_ \_ \_ J \_ \_ \_ \_, F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” ***Luke 23:34***

Jesus loves children. The Bible gives this beautifully.

“And they brought y \_ \_ \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ h \_ \_, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But w \_ \_ \_ J \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ i \_, he was m \_ \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and said unto them, S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the little children t \_ c \_ \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_

m \_, and f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.” ***Mark 10:13-15***

Jesus demonstrated His love for sinners by becoming poor that they might become rich.

***2 Corinthians 8:9***

Jesus continues to show His love to Christians by daily care and sustenance***. Philippians 4:13, 19; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 9:8***

All these great promises show that Jesus Christ’s love did not end at Calvary but continues on and on.

The Lord had a love for souls. Jesus came as the Good Shepherd to seek lost sheep.

***John 10:16.*** He loved the multitudes. His ministry was mostly one of individual soul winning, reaching them one by one.

Andrew and his friend ~ ***John 1:37-40***

Simon Peter, Phillip, Nathanael ~ ***John 1:42,43, 47***

Nicodemus, woman of Samaria at the well ~ ***John 3***

Man, that was born blind ~ ***John 9***

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and g \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ \_ i \_ l \_ \_ \_, until he find it?” ***Luke 15:4***

Jesus said there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents. ***Luke 15:10***. Jesus rejoiced over souls coming to Him. He was also grieved for every soul that rejected Him. ***Luke 19:41,42***

“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou

be with me in paradise.” ***Luke 23:43***

Love was part of the Lord Jesus Christ’s Character

1. ***Compassion* was part of Christ’s character**

The shortest verse in your Bible has to do with the compassion of the Saviour.

“J \_ \_ \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_.” ***John 11:35***

Jesus had compassion toward the multitudes.

“And Jesus, when he came out, s \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and was m \_ \_ \_ \_w \_ \_ \_

c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.” ***Mark 6:34***

Jesus’ compassion caused Him to be concerned for peoples’ physical needs.

“When Jesus s \_ \_ h \_ \_ l \_ \_, and knew that he had been now a longtime in that case, he saith unto him, W \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ b \_ m \_ \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ \_?” ***John 5:6***

Jesus healed the blind ~ ***Matthew 20:34***

He had compassion on those with devils ~ ***Mark 9:22; Luke 4:41***

He healed the lepers ~ ***Mark 1:41***

Besides all of these which do not near cover what Christ’ compassion did is the testimony of each and every one of us who know Him. We all that know the Lord can and should tell of the wonderful compassion our savior has had on us. ***Psalms 107:2*** Remember that time that you desperately needed the Lords compassion and you did not deserve it, and the Lord would have been right to condemn you, but rather showed his unremarkable compassion instead?

1. ***Prayer* was part of Christ’s character**

The four gospels give us a glimpse of the great prayer life of the Saviour, but none so strong as Hebrews.

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had o \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ u \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and

s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and t \_ \_ \_ \_ unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;” ***Hebrews 5:7***

It was not uncommon for the Lord Jesus to pray all night. ***Luke 6:12; Mark 1:35***. He prayed before His baptism, before the temptation, and before the choosing of the disciples. Jesus ended His earthly life with a prayer on His lips to the Father.

“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, h \_ s \_ \_ \_, F\_ \_ \_ \_ \_, i \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_

h \_ \_ \_ \_ I c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ m \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”

***Luke 23:46***

Jesus often sought to be alone in a solitary place on a mountainside. Sometimes He prayed alone, and sometimes He prayed all night alone***. Matthew 14:13; Luke 9:28; 22:41***

Jesus prayed for individuals. He prayed for Simon Peter. ***John 17:9-20; Luke 22:31, 32***

Jesus prayed in submission to the will of the Father in Gethsemane. ***Matthew 26:42***

One thing the Lord did exemplify was prayer. He showed us that it was very important to Him. He also taught us that communication with the Father should be of the upmost importance, and not to be left undone. ***Luke 18:1*** Isn’t it good to have a God that even wants to talk to us? Wow!

1. ***Meekness* was part of Christ’s character**

Jesus Christ was meek. He had a frame of mind that was opposed to contentiousness. Meekness was evident in Him by His gentleness and tenderness toward others. The Lord Himself claimed with His own words that this was part of His character.

“Take my yoke upon you, and l \_ \_ \_ \_ o \_ m \_; for \_ a \_ m \_ \_ \_ and l \_ \_ \_ \_ i \_

h \_ \_ \_ \_: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” ***Matthew 11:29***

The Apostle Paul following in the Lords steps made claims to the Lords character in him.

“What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or i \_ l \_ \_ \_, and i \_ t \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

o \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_?” ***1 Corinthians 4:21***

If meekness were not part of the Saviours character, He would not have taught us to learn it ourselves.

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ a \_ o \_ \_ i \_ t \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” ***Galatians 6:1***

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach,

patient, I \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ i \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;” ***2 Timothy 2:24, 25***

God’s word even calls for a leader to learn meekness in helping others and doing the Lords work. The Lord Jesus manifested meekness in not breaking the bruised reed or quenching the smoking flax. He dealt very tenderly with the brokenhearted and fanned the dying fire in the backslider.

1. ***Humility* was part of Christ’s character**

The Lord Jesus Christ was humble. As we read about His meekness in ***Matthew 11:29***, He was “meek and lowly in heart,” so was the Lord humble.

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, t \_ \_

K \_ \_ \_c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; l \_ \_ \_ \_, and r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

u \_ \_ \_ a \_ a \_ \_, and upon a colt t \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ o \_ a \_ a \_ \_.” ***Zechariah 9:9***

When the Lord said, “Come unto me,” He didn’t say, “because I am well educated and know the Greek and Hebrew.” He said, “I am meek and lowly.” Jesus was humble because He did not seek His own glory, He sought His Fathers glory.

“And I s \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ g \_ \_ \_ \_: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.”

***John 8:50***

The Lord shunned publicity and fabulous advertising which caters to pride. Jesus’ humility allowed Him to associate with publicans and sinners.

“Then d \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ all the p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for t\_ h \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, T \_ \_ \_ m \_ \_ r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and eateth w \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_.” ***Luke 15:1, 2***

Jesus obeyed Paul’s admonition not to mind men of high estate.

“Be of t \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ one toward another. M \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, but

c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ to m \_ \_ of l \_ \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_. Be not wise in your own conceits.” ***Romans 12:16***

The humility of the Lord Jesus Christ allowed Him to get down and wash the stinking feet of dirty fishermen. How many feet have you washed lately? Jesus was humble!

“And being found in fashion as a man, h \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” ***Philippians 2:8***

In view of the fact that we have such a beautiful Saviour that has set for us a perfect example of moral character, how can we not desire to willingly obey Him, and strive to let Him turn us into images of Himself? Let’s not imitate like the devil does, but rather, let’s reproduce by the power and grace of God fruits of the Holy Ghost: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance. ***Galatians 5:22***

“L \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ b \_ i \_ y \_ \_, which was also i \_ C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ J \_ \_ \_ \_: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But m \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of n \_ r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and took upon him the f \_ \_ \_ of a s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and was made in the likeness of men:” ***Philippians 2:5-7***

There is no higher goal that you can set for yourself in this life than, after you are saved and have received Jesus Christ as Saviour, to mold your moral character and your spiritual character after His. What possible reason could anyone have to not want the morals of Jesus and the character of Jesus? Unless you want to remain wicked.

“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; e \_ \_ \_ s \_

n \_ \_ yield your members s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ unto h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.” ***Romans 6:19***

From this study of the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can see that our desire is not to imitate Him with a humble ***look***. After all, a wolf in sheep’s clothing puts out a fake humiliation. We have a real Lord who is alive and is coming back to get us and we are not ever going to have to worry about anything then. Let’s not be fakirs about our person and our characters but be sincere and truthful. There’s not a person reading this study that does not have one or two character flaws that could be tidied up and made more like the Lord. Some are easier than others, but are you trying is the question? The Lord bless you for doing this study and telling the truth. The Lord doesn’t need perfecting, we do! Don’t you want too?

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory

of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ i \_ y \_ \_, t \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_

of glory:” ***Colossians 1:27***

Life is a Grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends upon what you are made of. ~James S. Hewitt~



“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on

whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” ***Matthew 21:44***

The Character of Christ

Amen

