

Christian Characteristics Introduction

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Christian Characteristics

Introduction

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Introduction

God's attributes are God's revealed descriptions of His own nature and character.

The entire creation shows God's glory, deity and eternal power.

Exodus 34:6-7

6 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Introduction

Some attributes emphasize the absolute distinctness of God, His transcendent greatness and exalted nature. Such attributes have little or no analogy in God's creatures.

Eternal– God is timeless and everlasting (Deut. 33:27; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 22:13).

Immense – God fills heaven and earth (Jer. 23:23-24).

Immutable – God is changelessness and his faithfulness to Himself, to His decrees, promises, and works (Heb. 6:17; James 1:17).

Independent – God is not dependent upon anything outside of Himself (Jn. 5:26; Acts 17:25).

Spiritual – God is not physical and is invisible (Ex. 20:4, 33:20).

Unity (Oneness) – God is the only, living and true God (Deut. 6:4; Mk. 12:29; Jn. 17:3).

Introduction

Certain attributes find some reflection or analogy in human beings created in God's image.

Intellect

Knowledge

Wisdom

Morality

Holiness

Truthfulness

Free Will

Ability to make decisions

Freedom from external control

Introduction

Christian characteristics do not happen by accident. Neither is it given by God to a person as a gift.

An individual must set their mind to develop within their life the high-quality traits that exemplify Christian characteristics.

Study, think, pray, focus and set your mind to develop the Christian characteristics that are pleasing to God.

Introduction – Syllabus and Workbooks

Syllabus

Workbooks

Introduction - Questions

- 1. Define the characteristic.**
- 2. Share two verses in the Bible concerning the characteristic and explain the verses.**
- 3. Provide an example of someone who exhibited this characteristic in the Old Testament.**
- 4. Provide an example of someone who exhibited this characteristic in the New Testament.**
- 5. How do Christians reflect a Christ-Like attitude with this characteristic?**
- 6. How do you grow in this characteristic and seek opportunities to demonstrate this characteristic to others?**

1. How should a Christian exhibit these characteristics in their lifestyle?

A Christian's lifestyle should exhibit godliness and faithfulness.

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

1. How should a Christian exhibit these characteristics in their lifestyle?

God's Faithfulness and Consistency confirm the truth of His Character and His Word.

Christians should exhibit faith and put their total trust in God.

Heb. 10:23

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

1. How should a Christian exhibit these characteristics in their lifestyle?

Heb. 3:6

6 but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Heb. 3:14

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

Heb. 4:14

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

2. What should a Christian avoid?

Gal. 5:19-21

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

3. What is Paul telling the saints in Rome in Rom. 8:5?

Rom. 8:5

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

4. How is Paul encouraging the saints in Col.3:1-2?

Col. 3:1-2

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

A. The Beatitudes

B. Imitating God and having the same mind as Christ

C. Displaying “the fruit of the Spirit” and walk worthy of the “Calling”

D. Practicing and growing in Christian characteristics

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

A. The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12)

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

A. The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12)

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

B. “Imitating God” (Eph. 5:1-6)

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

2 and walk in love, just as **Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.**

3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

4 and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, **has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

B. “Having the same mind as Christ” (Phil. 2:1-8)

1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

B. "Having the same mind as Christ" (Phil. 2:1-8)

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

C. Displaying “the fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-25)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

23 **gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

C. Walk Worthy of the Calling (Eph. 4:1-6)

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

D. Practicing and growing in Christian characteristics (Phil 4:4-8)

4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

5 **Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men.** The Lord is near.

6 **Be anxious for nothing**, but **in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

D. Practicing and growing in Christian characteristics (Col. 3:12-17)

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

D. Practicing and growing in Christian characteristics (2 Peter 1:5-11)

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge,

6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,

7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

D. Practicing and growing in Christian characteristics. (2 Peter 1:5-11)

9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

5. There are 4 components that shape the Christian's character. How do these verses help us develop our Christian character?

**Attitude + Actions = Christian
Characteristics**

6. Why should Christians strive to develop and grow in Christian characteristics?

Christians should strive to **develop and grow** in **Christian characteristics** so that they can **glorify God**.

1 Cor. 10:31

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God**.