

## Characteristics of a Christian

(What should I expect as a Christian?)

### I. In Nature:

- A. 2 Cor. 5:17 - A new creature, creation:
  - 1. Eph. 2:10 - Created in Christ Jesus
  - 2. Eph. 4:24 - New man
- B. Jn. 3:3 - A new birth, from above.
- C. Col. 3:10 - Renewed (to cause to grow up) unto knowledge (that you may come to know, to understand completely).
- D. Titus 2:11-14 - A change in character. A change from what is vile to that which has been purified by God.

### II. In Attitude:

- 1. 1 Pet. 2:1-5 - Life of Longing for spiritual milk, i.e., the gospel.
- 2. 2 Tim. 1:7 - Life of Discipline: "saving the mind...soundness of mind, self-control"
- 3. 1 Pet. 2:17-25 - Life of Patient Suffering
- 4. Rom. 5:1-11 - Life of Rejoicing
- 5. Rom. 8:24-25 - Life of Hope
- 6. 1 Thess. 1:9-10 - Life of Waiting

### III. Invitation: Matt. 11:28 - "first they gave their own selves to the Lord"

#### How to Raise a Juvenile Delinquent

The first time I read this article from which these points are arranged was in the 70's. What's interesting about the information is the livingness of the points: time changes, but society remains. This article was released by the Houston, Texas Police Department. Enjoy the look into the mirror and the reflection of a society's development of a Juvenile Delinquent.

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick up cuter phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.
3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him decide for himself.
4. Avoid use of the word "wrong." He may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around—books, shoes, and clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility onto others.
6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized but let his mind feast on garbage.
7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be shocked when the home is broken up later.
8. Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustrations.
10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.
11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him."
12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will be apt to have it.

"Do you have faith, or does faith have you? Do you possess faith, or does faith possess you?"

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, was explicit about the importance of faith in the life of the child of God. In Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11, Paul quoted the prophet Habakkuk, who, recording the words of the Lord, said, "the righteous shall live by faith" (2:4), as did the Hebrew writer in Hebrews 10:38. As we consider these passages, we cannot rationally miss the point of Paul's statements in 2 Corinthians 5:7, when he said, "for we walk by faith, not by sight."

Faith is something that most everybody wants, but only a few will attain, due to what faith requires. The Hebrew writer gives us a definition, as well as various examples of faith, and thereby, sets before us the challenge and the question, "are we people of faith?"

In Hebrews 11:1, we have the definition: "faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." In verse 6, this definition is put into a practical format: "without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is (conviction of things not seen), and that he is a rewarder of them that seek him (assurance of things hoped for). Ret

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Hume, a Scottish historian, and philosopher (1711-1776) indicated that gratitude requires a feeling of love or honor for the benefactor, and deficiency in this feeling is a failing so severe as to be "of all crimes that human beings are capable of committing, the most horrid and unnatural." ret

### How Would You Describe Your Character?

“Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals. Awake to soberness righteously, and sin not; for some have no knowledge of God” (1 Corinthians 15:33-34). Sufficient to say, no good can come from running about with evil companions.

How would you describe your character? When you look in the mirror, what do you see that lies behind your eyes?

Although our character is formed in the heart, as the Lord said, “Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree corrupt, and its fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by its fruit. Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. The good man out of his good treasure bringeth forth good things: and the evil man out of his evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matthew 12:33-37), so also, our character will be manifested to the world through our actions.

Ultimately, our character is not going to be defined by what we wish it to be, but by how it is manifested in our conduct. The apostle Paul, in his statement to Timothy, said, “But thou didst follow my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, [and] sufferings” (2 Tim. 3:10-11) Paul puts a premium on conduct. ret

### Characteristics of a Christian

S	E	L	F	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	T
A	M	S	O	U	N	D	N	E	S	S	N
V	O	P	E	N	E	W	M	A	N	G	E
I	C	I	N	O	G	U	J	E	A	R	I
N	K	R	I	I	P	I	K	N	U	A	T
G	N	I	L	T	N	O	N	T	N	T	A
O	O	T	P	A	Y	A	A	G	D	E	P
S	W	U	I	E	B	E	A	E	E	F	A
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K	E	G	D	E	F	C	L	W	P	F	J
U	N	E	D	R	E	N	K	E	A	V	E
U	N	K	E	E	M	I	N	D	E	R	R

NATURE	CHARACTER	CREATURE
CREATION	NEW MAN	NEW BIRTH
RENEWED	FROM ABOVE	KNOWLEDGE
UNDERSTAND	PURIFIED	LIFE
LONGING	SPIRITUAL	MILK
GOSPEL	DISCIPLINE	SAVING
SOUNDNESS	MIND	PATIENT
SUFFERING	SELF-CONTROL	REJOICING
HOPE	WAITING	GRATEFUL
FAITH	LABOR	HEAVY
LADEN	REST	COME
YOKE	LEARN	MEEK

### Characteristics of a Christian

With Him is

### Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

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Phone 405.916.4723		
Volume I	Joneschurchofchrist@gmail.com	0040

#### Weekly Reading:

Luke 17:11-19; Matthew 11:1-5  
1 Peter 1:13-25; John 1:15-17



Luke 16:19-31

#### Your Choice Choose Wisely



Revelation 4:4

#### Are You Grateful?

Are you grateful for life? Do you have an appreciation, or thankfulness for what you have received, or will receive in the future? Having an attitude of gratitude is really a matter of choice. It doesn't depend on circumstances, or genetic wiring, or something that we have no control over. Gratitude really becomes an attitude that we can choose that will make life better for ourselves, and for others. When things go well, gratitude enables us to savor things going well. When things go poorly, gratitude enables us to get over those situations and to realize they are temporary. We should have gratitude for things we cannot in any meaningful sense repay, such as life.

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