

CHRIST-like

THE CHARACTER OF A CHRISTIAN

The Main Idea: The goal of Christianity is to become like Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says “we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

- “Unveiled face” refers to us having full access to God’s presence and power. When Moses was visited by God, he came back with such a bright countenance, the people of God could not look upon him. Thus, Moses wore a veil. (Exodus 34:33-35) Now, because of Christ, we no longer need a human mediator to access God, and His presence is no longer hidden behind a veil.
- When we look at ourselves (in the mirror), the goal is to see Christ, His attributes and His actions. He is the standard. We compare ourselves to Him, not each other, or any other worldly standard.



Everything Jesus did came from a place of love. His very being is love. If we are to be Christ-like, our desire should be to first love like Him. 1 John 4:16 says that **God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.** Ephesians 5:2 read, "And walk in love, **as Christ also has loved us** and given Himself for us..." John 13:34 says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you.**

- Our actions flow from our affections.
- Religion changes your behavior, but only Christ can change your heart.
- The heart of Christ was revealed through what “moved Him” (Matthew 9:36)
- Jesus saw people as they were before He changed them.
- Who have we judged before we tried to understand them?
- A healthy heart produces healthy relationships with others. (Colossians 3:12-14)
- Psalm 139:23-24 says, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”.



FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-11

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus..." (Philippians 2:5)

THE MAIN IDEA

How we approach life depends on how we think. How we solve problems, how we navigate relationships, how we steward our spiritual life, and how we interact with the world, our thinking affects it all. Before Jesus changed the world with His hands, He viewed the world with His mind. Christlikeness begins with learning to think the way Jesus thinks.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Everyone has a mind, but not everyone has the **mind of Christ**.
- Our actions are merely the outward expression of our inward thoughts.
- It is possible to accept Jesus into our hearts without allowing Him to reshape our minds. (Romans 12:2)
- God is not merely interested in changing behavior. He changes **thinking**, because changed thinking produces changed living.

HOW DOES JESUS THINK?

1. The Mind of Christ Is Humble (Philippians 2:3-8)
 - A. Jesus never thought less of Himself. He simply thought of Himself less often.
 - B. Humility isn't weakness. Humility is strength submitted to God.
 - C. Questions:
 - Do I need to be recognized?
 - Do I always have to be right?
 - Can I serve without applause?
 - D. Pride asks, "*How can I be promoted?*" Humility asks, "*How can I serve?*"
2. The Mind of Christ Is Focused on God's Will (John 4:34)
 - A. Jesus filtered every decision through one question: "**What does My Father want?**"
 - B. Culture asks: "What makes me happy?" Christ asks: "What pleases the Father?"
 - C. The Christ-like mind is disciplined enough to delay immediate gratification for eternal purpose.

3. The Mind of Christ Sees People Differently (Mark 6:34)
 - A. Where others saw interruptions, Jesus saw opportunities.
 - B. Where others saw sinners, Jesus saw souls.
 - C. Where others saw problems, Jesus saw possibilities.
 - D. Questions
 - How do I see difficult people?
 - How do I see my enemies?
 - How do I see those who disagree with me?
4. The Mind of Christ Is Governed by Truth (John 17:17)
 - A. Jesus never allowed public opinion to determine His convictions.
 - B. He wasn't manipulated by crowds.
 - C. He wasn't discouraged by critics.
 - D. He wasn't intoxicated by compliments.
 - E. His mind remained anchored in God's truth.

HOW DO I GROW MY MIND TO BE MORE CHRIST-LIKE?

- **Read** God's Word daily.
- **Reject** thoughts that contradict Scripture.
- **Reflect** before reacting.
- **Renew** your mind continually through prayer and meditation.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does our culture encourage us to think about most?
2. Which characteristic of Christ's mind is hardest for you?
3. How does humility affect leadership?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Each morning this week, before making major decisions or responding to difficult situations, pause and ask one question: **"If Jesus were thinking through this situation, how would He respond?"**



FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:45 (NKJV)

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

THE MAIN IDEA

One of the clearest marks of Christian maturity is not how many people serve you—but how many people you serve. Even for those of us who hold positions of “power” or influence, Jesus measured greatness by service.

WHAT ABOUT JESUS’ HANDS... MY HANDS?

1. Jesus’ Hands Were Willing Hands (John 13:3–5)
 - A. Jesus voluntarily washed the disciples’ feet. No one forced Him.
 - B. The King picked up a towel.
 - C. Servants don’t wait to be asked. We look for opportunities.
 - D. We should go about every day asking, “Who can I help?” (Galatians 5:13)
2. Jesus’ Hands Were Compassionate Hands
 - A. Jesus didn’t merely feel compassion. He did something.
 - B. He touched:
 - Lepers (Mark 1:41)
 - Blind men (Matthew 20:34)
 - Children (Mark 10:16)
 - Peter’s mother-in-law (Mark 1:31)
 - C. “Show me your hands”.
 - Compassion that never acts is only emotion.
 - Biblical compassion moves.
3. Jesus’ Hands Were Sacrificial Hands
 - A. Every miracle... Every healing... Every embrace... Eventually led to **nails**.
 - B. Jesus literally gave His hands for us.
 - Isaiah 53
 - John 15:13
 - C. Real service always costs something.
 - Time
 - Comfort

- Convenience
- Money
- Reputation

D. Volunteerism is a form of sacrifice that has literally sustained local churches for centuries.

4. Jesus' Hands Empowered Others

A. Jesus never intended to do ministry alone.

B. He trained disciples.

C. He sent the seventy "others" out.

D. He empowered the church.

E. Ephesians 4:11–12

- The goal of leadership isn't doing everything. It's preparing others.
- Healthy churches don't create spectators. We create participators.

F. Three kinds of church members.

- Curious
- Casual
- Committed

Reflection Questions

- Whose burden am I helping carry?
- What gift has God placed in my hands?
- Where has God called me to use my gifts?

Weekly Challenge

- Perform **acts of service** this week.
- Don't post them.
- Don't announce them.
- Don't expect recognition.
- Simply serve the way Jesus served.

Memory Verse– Mark 10:45 (NKJV)

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Closing Thought

The hands that God uses most are not the ones raised highest in worship—they are the ones extended most often in service.



FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:16

"But He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed."

THE MAIN IDEA

Before Jesus changed the world publicly, He consistently met with the Father privately. His power (and ours) flowed (will flow) from His (our) prayer life. What we learn from the knees (prayer life) of Jesus is that prayer was not an emergency response—it was His regular rhythm. If we are going to become Christ-like, prayer must become a lifestyle rather than a last resort.

- I. Prayer Was Jesus' Priority
 - A. Mark 1:35 – "Very early in the morning... Jesus got up... and prayed."
 - B. Jesus prayed before the crowds came.
 - C. He sought the Sovereign before He sought success.
 - D. What usually gets your first attention every morning?
 - E. What would change if prayer became your first appointment?
- II. Prayer Guided Jesus' Decisions
 - A. Luke 6:12-13 – Jesus spent the night praying before choosing the twelve disciples.
 - B. Important decisions deserve extended prayer.
 - C. Many of our mistakes aren't caused by lack of intelligence. They're caused by lack of prayer.
 - D. Prayer acknowledges a power greater and higher than yours.
 - E. Prayer doesn't just change circumstances, it changes discernment.
- III. Prayer Sustained Jesus Under Pressure
 - A. Matthew 26:36-46 – Gethsemane teaches us that prayer prepares us for suffering.
 - B. Jesus didn't pray to escape God's will. He prayed for strength to accomplish it. "Not My will, but Yours be done."
 - C. Sometimes prayer changes the situation. But ALL times, prayer changes us.
- IV. Prayer Connected Jesus to the Father's Heart
 - A. John 17 – Jesus prayed...
 - for Himself
 - for His disciples

- for future believers
- B. Notice that Jesus' prayers weren't centered on comfort but on God's glory, unity, holiness, and mission.
- C. Mature prayer moves from "Bless me..." to "Use me."

Finally, Christ-like Prayer is...

- I. **Consistent** – Luke 5:16
- II. **Dependent** – John 5:19
- III. **Honest** – Matthew 26:39
- IV. **Intercessory** – John 17
- V. **Obedient** – Hebrews 5:7-8

Weekly Challenge

- Set aside a daily prayer appointment.
- Pray before making important decisions.
- Spend some minutes listening after praying.
- Pray intentionally for someone else every day.

Closing Thought

If we want to live like Christ, we must first learn to kneel like Christ.



FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:43

"I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent".

THE MAIN IDEA

As Christians we are challenged to believe what Jesus said, do what Jesus commands, and to **go where Jesus went**. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus was constantly walking toward people who were hurting, forgotten, overlooked, and spiritually lost. His feet carried Him into villages, homes, cemeteries, deserts, synagogues, and ultimately, to the cross.

If our hearts are to love like Christ's...

If our minds are to think like Christ's...

If our hands are to serve like Christ's...

If our knees are to pray like Christ's...

Then our feet must **move like Christ's**.

Faith that never moves is faith that never matures.

I. Jesus' Feet Moved with Purpose – Luke 4:43

- A. "I must preach the kingdom of God..."
- B. Jesus never wandered. Every step had purpose.
- C. He wasn't driven by popularity. He wasn't controlled by comfort. He walked with divine assignment.
- D. Everyone is busy. But do our agendas have order and purpose?
 - Where is God sending me?
 - Am I walking by routine or by calling?
 - Am I looking for opportunities to serve?

II. Jesus' Feet Crossed Boundaries

- A. Jesus intentionally walked into places that religious people avoided.
 - through Samaria
 - to the homes of sinners
 - to lepers
 - to tax collectors
 - to the poor

- to Gentiles
 - to the possessed
 - to the forgotten
- B. Love always travels farther than prejudice.
- C. The Gospel moves toward broken people.
- D. What people or places are Christians sometimes tempted to avoid today?

III. Jesus' Feet Brought Peace – Ephesians 6:15

- A. "Having your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."
- B. Our feet should never carry us toward:
- Gossip
 - Division
 - Hatred
 - Bitterness
 - Mischief / Drama (Proverbs 6:18)
- C. Instead they should carry us to spaces of...
- Encouragement
 - Forgiveness
 - Reconciliation
 - Hope
- D. People should be glad when we arrive based on what we bring with us.

IV. Jesus' Feet Served– John 13:1–17

- A. The Creator knelt down.
- B. The King washed feet.
- C. Before He asked His disciples to carry the Gospel... He showed them how to carry a towel.
- D. Service is the pathway to influence. If you're too important to serve, you're not fit to lead.

V. Jesus' Feet Left Comfort

- A. Jesus constantly left comfortable places to fulfill uncomfortable assignments.
- He left Heaven.
 - He left crowds.
 - He left popularity.
 - He walked toward the cross.
- B. Following Jesus requires movement.
- He moves us in...

- He moves us out...
- He moves us around...
- He moves us through...

HOW TO WALK LIKE JESUS

1. Intentional Steps

Don't drift. Walk with purpose.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." (Psalm 37:23)

2. Compassionate Steps

Go where people hurt. Don't wait for broken people to come to church. Take Christ to them.

3. Courageous Steps

Walking with Jesus often means walking against culture. Following Christ isn't always convenient, but it is always worthwhile.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where is God calling me to go that I've been avoiding?
 2. Whose life needs the Gospel that God has already placed near me?
 3. Do my daily habits reflect movement toward Christ's mission and purpose?
 4. Are my feet carrying peace or conflict?
 5. What step of obedience do I need to take this week?
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WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Every day this week, intentionally take one step toward someone outside your normal circle. Invite someone to church. Pray with someone. Visit someone who is lonely. Encourage someone who feels forgotten. Walk where Jesus would walk.