

Learning to Live Like Jesus

Before the foundation of the world, God loved His son Jesus (John 17:24). God wanted many other children, who would be Jesus' brethren (Romans 8:29). God wanted these that would be His children to be saved by Jesus and to be like Jesus: holy and without blame before Him in love (Revelation 13:8; Ephesians 1:4,5). God then created the earth and all living things in it (Genesis 1). He created man in His image and gave man dominion over the other creatures (Genesis 1:26,27). Adam, the first man, disobeyed God and thus sin and death entered the world (Romans 5:12). All who descended from Adam (all people) were affected (1Corinthians 15:22). God founded and nurtured a nation, Israel, through which His son would come (Galatians 3-4). Many promises in figures and explicit predictions were given to this nation, pointing to better things to come in Christ (Romans 15:8; Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 9:9, 23; 10:1). When the fullness of time was come, Jesus came to the world, lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead (Galatians 4:4; 1Corinthians 15:3-5). When we believed on Jesus Christ, we were made a child of God (John 1:12; Gal 3:26). We became one with Christ who is now in us by the Holy Spirit (John 14:18-24). Our purpose now is to allow Christ to live His life through us (2Corinthians 4:10,11; Galatians 2:20; 4:19). As we do so, our minds are continually renewed such that we more and more think, speak, and live like Jesus (Romans 12:1,2). God's purpose is to ultimately present us holy, unblameable, and unproveable in His sight (Colossians 1:21-23). The following list describes the spiritual fruit which we should allow God to produce in our lives as we become more like Christ.

1. Holy -- Separate from sin (1Pet 1:14-16)
2. Just -- Impartial, upright, no respecter of persons (Titus 1:8)
3. Loving -- Sacrificially giving of one's self for the benefit of others (John 3:16)
4. Joyful -- Inwardly contented and happy based on trust in God (John 15:11)
5. Kind -- Gentle, friendly, courteous, and encouraging (Eph 4:32)
6. Courageous -- Willing to face harm or insult when necessary (Josh 23:6)
7. Content -- Satisfied with what or who you have (Phil 4:11-13)
8. Humble -- Not thinking too highly of one's self (Phil 2:3-8)
9. Obedient -- Consistently following the instructions of those in authority (1Pet 1:14)
10. Ready -- Prepared and willing to act immediately (1Pet 3:15)
11. Temperate -- Willing and able to deny self; self-discipline; self-restraint (Gal 5:23)
12. Cooperative -- Willing and able to work well with others (Eph 4:3)
13. Generous -- Cheerfully giving to others, even out of want (2Cor 9:7)
14. Faithful -- Trustworthy, dependable, full of faith in God and His word (Rev 2:10)
15. Pure -- Clean in thought, word, and actions (Mat 5:8)
16. Submissive -- Willing to yield to another's judgment, decision, or desire (Eph 5:21)
17. Thankful -- Giving thanks always for all things (Eph 5:20)
18. Patient -- Calm and peaceful under pressure; able to wait for others (James 5:8)
19. Diligent -- Hard working, doing all things heartily as unto the Lord (2Pet 3:14)
20. Hopeful -- Having confidence in God regarding things not yet seen (Rom 8:24)
21. Truthful -- Knowing, loving, living, and speaking the truth (3John 1:4)
22. Wise -- Knowledgeable, discerning, sensible, and insightful (Mat 10:16)
23. Compassionate -- Merciful, caring for and helping the needy (1Pet 3:8)
24. Meek -- Gentle, slow to speak, fearing the Lord, respecting others (Matthew 5:5)
25. Approachable -- Easily intreated, not easily offended, taking reproof gracefully (James 3:17)
26. Friendly -- Always reaching out to befriend others (Proverbs 18:24)