

June 7, 2020

Christian Character

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Olney, IL 62450
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

The New Testament heavily emphasizes who the Christian must be. Notice some of the characteristics the Holy Spirit teaches we must make a part of who we are.

1 Peter 1:15-16 commands us to be holy. Holiness involves being set apart from evil for the glory of God. There is a drastic difference between the lifestyle of the faithful Christian and that of the majority. We must allow God's Word to direct and transform our thinking, instead of conforming to the world (**Jn. 17:15-17**).

Scripture also teaches that we must be meek (**Matt. 5:5**). The attitude of meekness accepts God as our Master, yields to His guidance, and yields to *others* when it is appropriate. Meekness is *not* being a "push-over." Being meek works hand in hand with being steadfast (**1 Cor. 15:58**). While steadfastness *refuses* to change in ways that push us *away* from God, meekness *pursues* changes that draw us *closer* to God.

Scripture also teaches that we must be humble. In **Colossians 3:12**, Christians are commanded to "**put on**" "**humility**." Humility involves not *esteeming* self or *exalting* self too highly. It requires a proper view of self in relation to God and others.

Humility is linked to being gentle. Titus was told to remind Christians "**to speak evil of no man, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing all meekness toward all men**" (**Titus 3:2**).

Christian Character

(Continued)

While truth must not be sugar-coated, this does not excuse a contentious, “hot-headed” attitude. Even restoring the erring must be done in a “***spirit of gentleness***” (Gal. 6:1).

Treating others with gentleness requires us to be temperate. **2 Peter 1:5-6** commands us to “***add***” “***temperance***” (or “***self-control***”). Self-control involves having an inner mastery over one’s desires and passions. For instance, controlling one’s *anger* is needful to avoid being quick-tempered and thus speaking rashly toward others in fits of wrath (**Eph. 4:26; Jas. 1:19**).

Another thing we must *be* is patient. After commanding self-control in **2 Peter 1:6**, the inspired apostle commanded patience. Often when Scripture speaks about patience, it involves *constancy* in doing right, especially through trials (**Rom. 12:12**). It is linked to endurance and perseverance. It is the *opposite* of the seed that fell in rocky places in the parable of the sower (shaky faith that stumbles when trials come) (**Matt. 13:20-21**).

An additional thing **2 Peter 1:6** teaches we must be is godly. Godliness does not necessarily mean *godlikeness*, though there *are* some characteristics of God we must imitate. Godliness, though, foremost involves reverence and godly fear. It leads to a proper *respect* for God that recognizes and accepts His authority (**Heb. 12:28**).

Scripture also teaches we must be zealous for good works (**Titus 2:14**). While zeal can cause more harm than good if misdirected,

knowledge without zeal is no better than zeal without knowledge. We must not be apathetic in our service to God, but have a fiery passion for obeying His commands.

The one who zealously comes to God on His terms should be joyful (**Phil. 4:4**). Christ provides a much deeper sense of joy than anything the world offers.

Joy is in many ways rooted in being thankful, as **Colossians 3:15** commands. No matter what difficulties we face, the faithful remember that life is much better than we deserve. The blessings God provides to the obedient are *unmerited*.

Scripture further teaches that we must be courageous (**1 Cor. 16:13**), kind, forgiving, tenderhearted (**Eph. 4:32**), sincere (**Phil. 1:21**), selfless (**Phil. 2:4**), honest (**Col. 3:9**), and compassionate (**1 Pet. 3:8**), among other things.

Each of us must take personal responsibility to make these things a part of our lives. The Holy Spirit through Paul *commands* us to “***put on***” those character traits listed in **Colossians 3:12-15**. The inspired apostle Peter *commands* Christians to “***add***” those qualities listed in **2 Peter 1:5-7** to our lives. These commands are not optional or impossible to obey. They do, though, require diligence (**2 Pet. 1:5**) and deliberate pursuit.

May we develop the character God commands, allowing Him to transform us into people who imitate His perfect Son.

Area Gospel Meetings

First City Church of Christ (Vincennes):
July 20-24 (with various speakers)
M-F: 7:00 (Eastern time)

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God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"At my first defense, no one came to help me, but all left me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and that all the Gentiles might hear. So I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." – 2 Tim. 4:16-17

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Randy & Kim S
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

June 7 – Judges 16-18; Luke 7:1-30
June 8 – Judges 19-21; Luke 7:31-50
June 9 – Ruth 1-4; Luke 8:1-25
June 10 – 1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 8:26-56
June 11 – 1 Samuel 4-6; Luke 9:1-17
June 12 – 1 Samuel 7-9; Luke 9:18-36
June 13 – 1 Samuel 10-12; Luke 9:37-62

"Sanctify them in the truth: thy Word is truth." – John 17:17

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, June 7, 2020

Bible Study:

Worship:

Evening:

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Assignments

Sunday, June 14, 2020

Reading:

Announcements:

Table:

Serve:

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Invitation:

Clean Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Donna

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday morning Bible classes and Sunday afternoon services are temporarily cancelled*

**Wednesday evening Bible study will be in the book of Haggai*

**Our summer Gospel meeting is scheduled for August 9-14 with L.A. Stauffer*

Anniversaries

June 7 – Michael & Julzy

June 10 – Jeff & Patty

June 23 – Mason & Stephanie

Birthdays

June 16 – Jenna