

April 11, 2021

## Imitating Jesus' Character

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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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.

***2 Peter 1:5-8: And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Peter opened his second epistle by exhorting the Christians to which he wrote to put on Christ-like characteristics. He reminded them that God has promised “***exceeding great and precious promises***” to those who put off worldly sins and become like Jesus (**verses 3-4**).

The traits the Holy Spirit described through Peter are inward qualities of the heart. Inward qualities of the heart are often referred to collectively as one's character.

Character is important for at least two reasons: (1) God commands us to develop a certain character, and

## Imitating Jesus' Character

(Continued)

(2) our character is often the source of our behaviors. For our conduct to be right, our character must be right. As Jesus said in **Matthew 15:19**, “***out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.***” Outward unrighteousness is often the result of inward impurity. Addressing the root of sin requires looking at our character, seeking to become like Christ *inwardly*, as well as outwardly.

Christ-like character involves being humble and selfless (**Phil. 2:3-4**), compassionate (**Matt. 9:36; Col. 3:12**), meek and lowly (**Matt. 5:5; 11:29**), honest (**Eph. 4:25**), kind (**Eph. 4:32**), forgiving (**Eph. 4:32**), longsuffering (**Gal. 5:22**), steadfast (**1 Cor. 15:58**), zealous for good works (**Titus 2:14**), and full of other traits that emulate Jesus (cf. **Rom. 12:9-13; Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 3:12-15**).

This kind of character is not developed by a Christian putting his or her life on “auto-pilot.” Becoming like Jesus doesn’t just automatically happen when one is baptized. We must “[**give**

***all diligence***” to become like Christ (**2 Peter 1:5**).

This requires feeding our souls with God’s Word (**1 Pet. 2:2**), examining ourselves (**2 Cor. 13:5**), and allowing God to mold us according to His will (**Rom. 12:1-2**).

It is also greatly aided through prayer. Notice **Philippians 1:9-11**: ***This I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment; so that you may approve the things that are excellent; that you may be sincere and without offense to the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*** Much of this prayer’s emphasis is on building character to be more like Christ.

In order to walk in Jesus’ steps, we must do as He did outwardly, but we must also *become* like Him inwardly. We must focus not only on the outward actions that God commands, but on the inward traits that are needed in order to truly be *Christ-like*.

## Area Gospel Meetings

Casey Westside church of Christ:

April 11-15 (with John Gentry)

Sun: 10:30, 6:00; Mon-Thurs: 7:00

\*Our Gospel Meeting will be **April 18-23** with Wayne Walker (see flyers for topics)\*

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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

***"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new." – 2 Corinthians 5:17***

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
L.A. S (COVID recovery)  
Justice G (Perthes disease)  
Robert C  
Yockey Family

## Daily Bible Reading

April 11 – Leviticus 14; Matt. 27:1-26  
April 12 – Leviticus 15-16; Matt. 27:27-50  
April 13 – Leviticus 17-19; Matt. 27:51-66  
April 14 – Leviticus 20-22; Matt. 28  
April 15 – Leviticus 23-24; Mark 1:1-22  
April 16 – Leviticus 25; Mark 1:23-45  
April 17 – Leviticus 26-27; Mark 2

***"But He answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"***

**– Matthew 4:4**

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Bible Study: Darrell  
Worship: Michael  
Evening: Dan H

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Steve

### **Assignments**

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Reading: Larry  
Announcements: Harold  
Table: Dan H  
Serve: Travis  
Mike

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Invitation: Jeff

### **Clean Building**

Patty

### **Prepare Communion**

Julzy

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**April 18-23:** Gospel Meeting

(with Wayne Walker)

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

April 25 – Jessica

April 29 – Emily

April 29 – Jerry