

Imitating Jesus' Character

I. Introduction

- A. Part of following Jesus' lead involves imitating attitudes and qualities that make up His character. Consider five character traits Jesus has exemplified that we should strive to emulate. **Philippians 2:5**

II. Loving

- A. Jesus commands us to love others *as He has loved us*. Doing so demonstrates that we are His disciples. **John 13:34-35**
- B. Jesus showed love by denying His own comforts for the sake of the Father's will and the benefit of mankind. As He walked the earth, He constantly thought of others' needs more than His own selfish interests. **2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:4**

III. Humble

- A. Closely related to His love is the humility Jesus showed while on earth. He humbled Himself by coming to earth, living as a man, submitting to the Father in obedience, and suffering a humiliating death by crucifixion. **Philippians 2:6-8**
- B. Like Jesus, we must have a heart of humility. Such humility is needed to submit to the Father, and to treat *others* rightly. **Philippians 2:3**
- C. Jesus' humility is shown through His attitude of servitude. It is striking that the Son of God lowered Himself to the point of being a servant. Such is an example for us. **John 13:3, 12-15**

IV. Meek

- A. Similar to humility is the need for meekness. Not only has Jesus taught *us* to be meek, but His full surrender to the Father's will and gentle disposition toward others show us what meekness is. **Matthew 5:5; 11:29**

V. Forgiving

- A. Another part of Jesus' character to imitate is His forgiving attitude. Instead of rendering evil for evil, Jesus treated well those who treated Him poorly. None have been wronged by mankind more than Jesus. Yet, He showed a willingness to not hold bitterness and resentment toward those who've mistreated Him. **Colossians 3:13; Luke 23:34**

VI. Enduring

- A. Jesus had a forgiving attitude even through fiery trials. By doing what is right in the midst of trying circumstances, Jesus gave us the perfect example of endurance. **Hebrews 12:2-3**
- B. Just as Jesus suffered greatly for living righteously, so too do those who walk in His steps. Like Christ, we must have the level of commitment that is needed to be steadfast through fiery trials. **Matthew 16:21-24**

VII. Conclusion

- A. Jesus has further exemplified compassion, temperance, zeal, faithfulness, and sincerity, among other things. As we seek to develop *Christian* character, may we look to the One who has demonstrated the strongest character of any man who has ever lived. **Philippians 2:5**