

Things We Each Must Be

I. Introduction

A. Consider twelve things Scripture teaches *each* of us must be.

II. Imitators of God

A. Scripture commands, “be therefore imitators of God.” While part of God’s character is unique to Deity, much of His character sets an example for us to imitate. **Ephesians 5:1**

III. Holy

- A. A specific example God sets for us is that of holiness. Christians are commanded to “be holy.” **1 Peter 1:15-16**
- B. Holiness on our part involves being set apart from the world to bring glory to God as His purchased possession. **John 17:15-17**

IV. Transformed

A. To be set apart from the world, we must “be transformed by the renewing of [our] mind.” **Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

V. Sincere

A. As the apostle Paul inferred through his prayer for the Philippians, we must also “be sincere.” We must be *purified* and serve God *genuinely*. **Philippians 1:10; Matthew 23:25-28**

VI. Zealous

A. The sincere Christian is not spiritually apathetic, but has a fiery passion for the Lord and what He defines as good works. This is connected to our need to “be zealous.” **Revelation 3:19, 15-17**

VII. Ready

A. The Lord further exhorts us to “be ready” for the Day He returns to judge each one of us. **Matthew 24:44, 36-43**

VIII. Thankful

A. Christians are also commanded to “be thankful.” While the world’s gratitude tends to be controlled by temporal circumstances, the faithful Christian sees things differently. **Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 6:17-18**

IX. Merciful

A. God’s mercy is part of the basis for gratitude. His mercy is also motivation for us to “be merciful” toward others, as our Lord commands. **Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:7**

X. Kind

A. Mercy is connected to our need to “be kind.” Kindness involves good and benevolent deeds toward others. It also involves a disposition toward others that’s not bitter or malicious, but tenderhearted. **Ephesians 4:32, 31**

XI. Gentle

A. A kind attitude also infers our need to not be contentious, but to “be gentle” toward others. **Titus 3:2**

XII. Immovable

A. Gentleness does not infer condoning evil. We must never compromise truth, but “be steadfast, immovable.” While we should be eager to make *God-pleasing* changes, we must not allow worldly influences to push us *away* from God. **1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 4:14**

XIII. Strong

A. Standing firm in the faith demands that we have the courage and resolve to believe and practice what God says is right. This is connected to our need to “be strong.” **1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10**