

STRIVING  
TO  
LIVE  
MORE  
LIKE  
JESUS  
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

If you could emulate anyone's life, whose would it be?

In our lesson text, Paul says to that we are to have the mind of Christ.

We should always be striving to live like our Lord lived.

This morning let's notice some characteristics that Jesus had in His life.

Characteristics that we also should have in our lives, if we are going to be like Jesus.

# Jesus Exercised The Characteristic Of Self-Denial.

## Philippians 2:6-7

Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

In order for us to be saved, Jesus lowered Himself, being born in the likeness of men.

The King James Version says, “but made Himself of no reputation.”

Jesus practiced self-denial throughout His life here on earth.

John 4:34

My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

John 5:30

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

John 6:38

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jesus never let popularity get his way.

John 6:15

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Satan offered Jesus the world.

Matthew 4:8-10

Again the devil took Jesus to a high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And He said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship Me."

Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”

Matthew 16:26

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for His soul.

Matthew 26:39

Not as I will, but as Thou wilt.

Christian are taught self-denial.

Luke 9:23-24

If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for Me.

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

## Luke 18:18-25

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is God. You know the commandments; ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and mother.’” And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; come, and follow Me.” But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

## Christ Came To Save Souls.

This is why Jesus came to earth in the first place.

Matthew 1:21

You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.

Mark 1:37-39

When they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for You." But he said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

Christians are taught to seek and save the lost.  
Jesus gives the command.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe  
all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am  
with you always, even to the end of the age.

Paul explains to Timothy how evangelism is to work..

II Timothy 2:2

And the things that you have heard from me among  
many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who  
will be able to teach others also.

How important is it to preach the gospel?

I Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Christ Lived An Example Life.

Christ went about doing good and living righteously in order to leave us an example.

I Peter 2:21

For to this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.

He left us an example in evangelism.

John 20:21

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me so I send you.

He left us an example in humility.

In John 13 Jesus washes the feet of the apostles. In  
verse 15 He says:

For I have given you an example, that you should do  
as I have done.

He gave an example in obedience.

## Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.

## Hebrews 5:8-9

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered; and being made perfect He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Jesus practiced what he preached.

Christians are taught to be an example.

We should be an example to our children.

Can you say to your children what Paul said:

I Corinthians 11:1

Be followers of me as I also am of Christ.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when  
he is old he shall not depart from it.

This includes setting the right example for them.

We should be an example to the world.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

We should also be an example to the believers.

I Timothy 4:12

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

## Christ Lived A Sacrificial Life

He made the supreme sacrifice.

There is no greater truth in the Bible then this.

John10:17-18

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down, and I have the power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

I Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just and the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.

Romans 5:6

While we were still weak at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Galatians 1:4

Who gave Himself for our sins.

I John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

If you are not Christian today, we want you to know:

Christ died for you.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We are all guilty of sin.

Sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor is His ear dull that it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that he will not hear .

Romans 6:23  
For the wages of sin is death.

We deserve to die and spend eternity in hell.

But Christ died for us.

He paid our debt.

Why?

That we might have hope of eternal life.

We must accept His grace.

Romans 6:23

But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus  
our Lord.

We also must believe.

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; he  
who does not believe shall be condemned.

We also must repent.

Acts 2:38

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the  
name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and  
you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confess Jesus as the Son of God.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

And you must be baptized to rise up and walk in newness of life.

I Peter 3:21

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Yes, Christ made the ultimate sacrifice.

Christians are taught to sacrifice.

II Corinthians 12:15

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your  
souls.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of  
God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice,  
holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable  
service.

ARE YOU STRIVING  
TO BE MORE LIKE  
JESUS?

IN SELF-DENIAL?

IN SEEKING THE  
LOST?

IN BEING AN  
EXAMPLE?

IN SACRIFICING  
YOUR LIFE?

Given by David Hamlin 4-15-07 am

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