

Christian Characteristics

Godliness

Introduction

- 1. Godliness means God-likeness: It is God revealed in us.**
 - A. Others are able to see God living in us.**
- 2. This is perhaps the greatest characteristic of Christianity. Why?**
 - A. Godliness pulls the other traits together and we are seen as a God-like individual, influencing others for good as they see our good works and life of service for God.**

Matt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- 3. If we were to eliminate godliness from our life, then Christianity would cease.**
- 4. All of our labor and time we spent as a Christian without godliness would be wasted. A Christians's life without godliness is a life of hypocrisy.**

Godliness Commanded

1. By Peter.

2 Pet 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2. By Paul stating to; “exercise yourself toward godliness. (1 Tim 4:7) (Work at it)

A. We are to deny ungodliness and live godly.

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, **denying ungodliness** and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, **and godly** in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Ways in Which We Can Strive to Be like God

1. **In Love.**

- A. He loved us while we were sinners and allowed His Son to suffer a cruel death in order for us to live on in eternity (John 3:16).**

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- B. Therefore, to be godlike we must love Him the same way in return.**
Matthew 22:36-40

I Jn 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

- C. We must love the brethren.**
1 John 3:10, 4:7, 11

- D. But to be God-like, we must also love the unrighteous.**
Matthew 5:43-46

2. **In Impartiality.**

- A. God is no respecter of persons.**

1 Pet 1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

- B. To be God-like we too must not be a respecter of persons.**
James 2:1-9

3. **In Mercy.**

A. **Mercy is an attribute of God.**

(Defined: Kindness in excess of what may be expected)

Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

B. **Again, to be God-like we must have mercy on others.**

Luke 6:32-36

4. **In Holiness.**

A. **God is holy in all His ways.**

1 Chr 16:29 Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

D.L. Moody

A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine.

B. **We must imitate our God (Matt 5:48).**

1 Pet 1:13-16 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Holiness consists in thinking as God thinks, and willing as God wills.

Godliness Is Often Times Misconstrued

1. Some think that gain is godliness.

1 Tim 6:3-5 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, **who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.** From such withdraw yourself.

2. Some practice an outward form of godliness.

2 Tim 3:5 **having a form of godliness** but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Matt 23:27-28 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. "Even so you also **outwardly appear righteous to men**, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Results of Godliness

1. It ensures persecution.

2 Tim 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2. Godliness works deliverance from temptation. (1 Cor 10:13)

2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

3. Godliness with contentment is where we have gain.

1 Tim 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

Philip Parham tells the story of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat.

"Why aren't you out there fishing?" he asked.

"Because I've caught enough fish for today," said the fisherman.

"Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the rich man asked.

"What would I do with them?"

"You could earn more money," came the impatient reply, "and buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish, and make more money. Soon you'd have a fleet of boats and be rich like me."

The fisherman asked, "Then what would I do?"

"You could sit down and enjoy life," said the industrialist.

"What do you think I'm doing now?" the fisherman replied as he looked placidly out to sea.

Rom 8:31If God is for us, who can be against us?

Matt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

"Be content with what you have, never with what you are."

4. Godliness prepares us for the life to come.

1 Tim 4:8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, **having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.**

Conclusion

1. We should pray for conditions that are even more favorable to practice godliness.

1 Timothy 2:1-3

2. The godly people are set apart for the Lord.

Ps 4:3 But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

3. Good works become professors of godliness.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

4. If we strive to be like Him here, then we will be like Him in eternity.

Ps 17:15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

A mother once approached Napoleon seeking a pardon for her son.

The emperor replied that the young man had committed a certain offense twice and justice demanded death.

"But I don't ask for justice," the mother explained. "I plead for mercy."

"But your son does not deserve mercy," Napoleon replied.

"Sir," the woman cried, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for."

"Well, then," the emperor said, "I will have mercy." And he spared the woman's son.