KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER Pastor Rick Reager December 1, 2024

1.

1. *"²⁰ Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain,* "Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." Matthew 17:20

⁴⁵ And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief." Mark 6:5-6

They Believe In God & His Power & Trust That God Will

"²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20

2. ______ "¹³ Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

They Are

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28

"¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory." Colossians 3:1-4

clanging cymbal.² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

"³⁶ 'Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" ³⁷ Jesus replied, 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40

They Have A

They Have A For God & People "²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

"⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

⁴¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸ Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts." Ephesians 5:15-19

"¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.... ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." Galatians 5:16-25

5. ______ "¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

They Keep Their ____

They Keep Their _____ & The _____ "²⁴Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. ²⁵All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches. ²⁷I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

¹¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." Matthew 28:18-20

6. ______ "⁷ So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. ⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

"⁶ As the Scriptures say, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' ⁷ So humble yourselves before God." James 4:6-7

They Are Fully

⁴⁵ Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him." Psalm 62:5 "⁵ I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him." (GNT)

"¹³ For I can do everything through Christ,^[a] who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless." 1 Corinthians 15:58

"I Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically." Romans 12:11

"⁴⁴ Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy." 1 Thessalonians 5:14

We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.²⁹ That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me." Colossians 1:28-29

^{8.}______ "⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

 $\frac{1}{100}$ Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴² "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected. ⁴⁵ "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴⁶ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.⁴⁸ But what if the servant is evil and thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' 49 and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk?⁵⁰ The master will return unannounced and unexpected,⁵¹ and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 24:40-50

They Are _____

They Are & ** *" Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)*

"⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9

10.

9.

10. ______. "¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16

⁴⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him." Colossians 3:5-10

They Are

They Are <u>&</u> "⁷ For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7

"¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away." Acts 3:19

11.

⁽¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak." James 1:19

They Listen Carefully

⁴⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

¹⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. " James 1:5

⁴¹⁵ Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others." Proverbs 12:15

⁴⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lav his head." ⁵⁹ He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead!^[1] Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."⁶¹ Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."⁶² But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:57-61

"27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.²⁸ "But don't begin until you count the cost....³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own." Luke 14:27-28 & 3

They Give Of Themselves Way Past The _

"⁴ And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

⁽²³ Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. ²⁴ Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. ²⁶ I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. ²⁷ I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm." 2 Corinthians 11:23-27