**Edward Church *“What Is Your Purpose in Life?”* -pt5 April 24, 2018**

**What** Characteristics **of Christ Am I to** Reflect**?**

**When** we **give** our **lives** to **God**, He **begins** to work **within** us to **make** us more "**godly**." He **does** this **transforming** work through the **presence** of the Holy Spirit **inside** us, **developing** His *moral attributes* **within** us. We **need** to **cooperate** w- Him by **purposing** in our **hearts** to **become** Christlike.

*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." -***Romans 8:29**

* Holy -**Pure**, Set Apart **From** Sin./.**For** Him.
*"Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do…'" -***1 Peter 1:15**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Holy****,*** He is **set** **apart** from **sin**/ **having** to sin… for His **purposes**.

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* Righteous -**Absolute** Good
*"Righteous are you, O Lord, and your laws are right." -***Psalm 119:137**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Righteous****,*** **everything** He does is **right**—**even** on my **behalf**, and He **grants** His **righteousness** to **me**.

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* Just -**Fair**
*"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne."* **-Psalm 89:14**
	+ ***Since He is*** *Just****,*** I know that **all** His **rules** / **judgments** toward **everyone**, including **me**, are **fair**.
	+ ***“what*** *does the Lord* ***require*** *of you? To* ***act justly*** */ to love* ***mercy*** *and to walk* ***humbly*** *with your God"* -**Micah 6:8**

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* Merciful -**Compassionate**
*"The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion." -***Psalm 116:5**
* **Since He is merciful,** we know that He has compassion for each / every one of us even when we fail Him/ we are to extend mercy when others fail,*"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"* **Luke 6:36**

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* **Long-**Suffering -**Patient**
*"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient w- you, not wanting anyone to perish, but…come to repentance."* **-2 Pet 3:9**
	+ ***Since He is Long-****Suffering****,*** I **know** He is **patient** w- my **spiritual** progress..
	+ And we are to extend His patience to others.*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love"* -**Ephesians 4:2**

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* Wise -Perfect in **Choices**
*"How many are your works O Lord! In wisdom, you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." -***Psa 104:24**
	+ *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him"* -**James 1:5**

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* Holy—**Since He is holy,** He is set apart from sin, and He sets us apart from the power of sin in our lives... from having to sin. He sets us apart for His purposes.*"Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'"* ([1 Peter 1:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A15)).
* Righteous—**Since** He **is righteous,** everything He does is right—even on our behalf. And He grants His righteousness to us. He has made us to be the righteousness of Christ.*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"* ([2 Corinthians 5:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+5%3A21)).
* Just—**Since He is just,** we know that all of His rules and judgments toward everyone are fair and He enables us to deal fairly with others.*"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"* ([Micah 6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mic+6%3A8)).
* Merciful—**Since He is merciful,** we know that He has compassion for each and every one of us even when we fail Him. And we are to extend mercy when others fail us.*"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"* ([Luke 6:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+6%3A36)).
* Patient—**Since He is patient,** we know He is patient with our individual spiritual progress, but we must not take for granted His patience by deliberately testing it with willful disobedience. And we are to extend His patience to others.*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love"* ([Ephesians 4:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A2)).
* Wise—**Since** He **is wise,** we can trust Him with the decisions of our lives, knowing that He freely and generously shares His wisdom with us when we ask.*"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him"* ([James 1:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A5)).
* Good—**Since** He **is** good, His motives pure—we know that He is working for our individual and corporate good.*"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"* ([Romans 8:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A28)).
* Truthful—**Since He is truthful,** we know that He will never lie to us and His Spirit within us will enable us to speak truthfully to one another.*"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices"* ([Colossians 3:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A9)).
* Faithful—**Since He is faithful** and true to His promises, we know that we can count on Him to do what He says He will do, and we must likewise be faithful to keep our word to others.*"A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret"* ([Proverbs 11:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+11%3A13)).
* Jealous—**Since He is jealous,** we know He should have first place in our hearts. Although jealousy is assumed to be only negative, God refers to Himself as a *"jealous God."* The difference is that jealousy in a human being can be an ugly emotion when it expresses selfishness, yet it is entirely appropriate in God because, as our Creator, He owns us with no selfish motive. And it is right that we are jealous for God's work in the lives of His children. The apostle Paul gave this warning...*"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ"* ([2 Corinthians 11:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+11%3A2-3)).
* Loving—**Since He is loving,** we know that He cares and always has our best interest in mind. He still loves us even when we willingly choose to be disobedient. And His love is in our hearts that we might share it with others.This process of sanctification will result in our bringing delight to God ([1 John 4:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+4%3A12)).

As we become more and more conformed to Christ, we will bring delight to Him....

*"'I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord."* ([Jeremiah 9:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+9%3A24))

***The Character of God,* Relating to His Creation** Outwardly

Becoming **Christlike**, you do not take on His **natural** attributes or **inward** characteristics. You **cannot** become **infinite, self-sufficient, self-existent, omnipotent, or omnipresent**. But, you can take on His **moral** attributes cause your **promised** to be **conformed** to the **likeness** of Jesus.

*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." -***Romans 8:29**

* Good- **Pure** in **Motive**
*"Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?" -***Romans 2:4**
	+ ***Since He is good,*** I **know** His **working** in my **life** is **always** for my **good**.
	*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." -***Romans 8:28**
* Truthful- **Pure** in **Word**
*"Faith and knowledge [rest] on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie,*

 *promised before the beginning of time." -***Titus 1:2**

* + ***Since He is Truthful,*** I **know** that He will **never** lie to **me**.
* Faithful- **True** to **Promises**
*"If we are faithless, he will remain faithful,. He cannot disown himself." -***2 Tim 2:13**
	+ ***Since He is Faithful,*** I know I can **count** on Him to **do** what He **says** He will **do**.
* Jealous- **Unwilling** to **Share** what is **Rightfully** His

*"Do not worship any other god, the Lord, …name is Jealous, is a jealous God." -***Exo 34:14**

* + ***Since He is Jealous*,** He **should** have **first** place in my **heart**/ **life**. **Jealousy** is a **negative emotion**. However, **God** **refers** to **Himself** many times as **jealous**. The **difference** is that **jealousy** in a **human** is an **ugly emotion** because it **signifies** ownership and **expresses selfishness**. But, it is entirely **appropriate** in **God** because He **does own us**. He is our **Creator**. He is totally **without** selfish **motive**.
* Loving- **Seeking** Another's **Best**- Doing the Most **Positive**, **Selfless** and **Redemptive**

 Thing **Possible** for **Another**
*"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we*

 *ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." -***1 John 3:16**

* + ***Since He*** *is* ***Loving****,* I **know** that He **cares**/ **always** has my best **interests** in **mind**. He **still** loves us **even** when we **willingly** choose to be **disobedient**.

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*"'I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:24)*

* ***Wrathful***- **Hatred** for **sin**
*"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness." (Romans 1:18)*
	+ ***Since He is wrathful,*** I know that He must judge sin in my life and in the lives of those I love. He must punish unrighteousness. However, the full wrath for my sin was poured out on His Son at Calvary. God's wrath is also a justified anger against that which would harm me.

*"The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.'" (Jeremiah 31:3*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

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