

Being Christ-Like

Being “Christ-like” does not imply perfection or that we will all respond exactly the same in every given situation. It does not mean we will always be right in our decisions and choices. Remember, we were human before we were Christ-like.

What it does mean is that we have a desire, a passion, an attitude of wanting to seek our Lord’s wisdom and counsel in our motives and choices. Of course, this desire or attitude will not always appear to be Christ-like to the world because we have a different value system. Jesus warned that we would be persecuted for being a follower. The world is inherently fearful and selfish because of the fallen nature of human kind—and therefore emotionally motivated by fear and selfishness.

One essential concept we as Christ-like people must grasp is that “love” is a verb—not an emotion. Always remember, emotions are a wonderful servant, but they become very destructive when we let them become our masters. Emotions are essential to life; we would not be human without them. They allow us to experience our environment and then express it, but that’s all we should let them be. They are involuntary reactions through subconscious stimulation. An example of emotional stimulation: We never choose to laugh or cry; both are inherently involuntary emotional reactions. We should not make serious choices based only on the involuntary feelings and reactions we call emotions.

If we make decisions and choices based on emotions we are vulnerable to letting our selfish or fearful feelings run our life. We will have a difficult time trying to be Christ-like when this happens. Faith and healing power will be threatened and Satan may get his destructive power introduced, both to our physical and mental instability. Situations will progressively yield to even more emotionally driven fear.

Knowing this, Christ-like people will experience and express their emotions, but then choose to be motivated by faith, logic, facts, and good counsel. They are able to consciously choose to love those who are not lovable or Christ-like. Emotionally driven people will not; they can not. The world does not react to values in the same way a Christ-like person will. The world is reluctant to love a Christ-like person. Fear and selfishness is their god.

A misconception we must watch and perhaps deal with is the term “born again” as observed in John 3:3, 3:7 and 1 Peter 1:23. Christianity has been left with a challenge mentors and disciplers sometimes need to confront. To many, the term implies that Christianity produces two kinds of Christians, those radical ones who claim they are born again, experiencing the transformation that comes with the “Lordship” concept. The second kind are those who believe they are Christians,

perhaps because of an emotional experience or a prayer at the altar, but without the transformation leading to “Lordship” which is seen as being far too fanatical.

Of course, if we are not born again, in possession of the Holy Spirit with its incredible wisdom and counsel, we are absent the grace required to be a Christian. A good question to ask: Can Jesus be Savior without being Lord?” Of course, if He can not, then our work must begin within our own church body.

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