

CHRISTLIKENESS.

What is it to be Christlike? It is to partake of His Spirit, to have His disposition, to be actuated by like motives, and to live out a life like His. Let us notice some of the excellencies of His beautiful character.

He is holy, harmless, undefiled. He loves justice, truth and righteousness, and hates iniquity and wrong doing of every form. He is gentle and easy to be entreated. He has compassion on the sick and suffering. He is sympathetic, touched with the feeling of our infirmities, ready to weep with those that weep, and to rejoice with those that rejoice. Yet His kindness and love never led Him to compromise with sin. He dared to tell unpleasant truth to those who needed it. He did not shrink from uncovering and denouncing hypocrisy and corruption. He faithfully warned men against popular sins and sinners, although He knew they would hate Him for it. He was serious and earnest. To Him life was real, and upon present faithfulness depended eternal blessedness. He rejoiced over spiritual things (Lu. 10:21), but had no time for vanity and nonsense. He was prayerful, peaceable and patient. When falsely accused He opened not His mouth. When reviled, He reviled not again. When caused to suffer unjustly He threatened not. He sought not to have revenge on His enemies, but always returned good for evil. He was meek and lowly, modest and humble, and unassuming. He loved not vain outward show, but inward worth. The false and fleeting were of no value compared to the real and everlasting. He lived for eternity. He went about doing good to all, and harm to none. Selfishness, narrowness, prejudice and bigotry had no place in His bosom. Cheerful, courageous and devoted, He lived to help others and to do the will of God. He warned those who were in danger, comforted the sorrowing, cared for His mother, encouraged the faint, patiently endured those who misunderstood or mistreated Him, prayed for His enemies. In everything He was unselfish, truthful, merciful and pure. But words fail; the Spirit alone can reveal to our souls all the perfections of His unsullied life, the moral symmetry of His spotless character.

When should we be Christlike?

"Behold, now is the day of salvation."

"If any man have not [now and here] the spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Ro. 8:9).

"Every man that hath this hope set on Him purifieth himself even as He is pure."

"As He is, so are we in this world."

"Denying ungodliness [un-Christlikeness], we should live, soberly, righteously and godly [like Christ] in this present world" (Tit. 2:12).

"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps" (1 Pet. 2:21.) Right in this world of selfishness and sin is where Christlike lives are needed. Never will there be a greater need of men possessing His pure Spirit than there is today.

HOW CAN WE BE CHRISTLIKE?

Answer. By being born of God and baptized with the Holy Ghost. The fruit

of the Spirit is love, joy, peace and all else that is Christlike, so if we would be like Jesus we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. But that is not the end of it; we must keep in communion with Him. We must often feed on bread from heaven and partake of the ever flowing fountain of the water of life. While we are living branches of the true Vine, constantly receiving spiritual life and strength from Him, we shall be like Him. God has "given us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4). When we trust Him to do it, God will purify our hearts, cleansing them from all sin, removing everything that is like Satan, and filling us with perfect love. Then, our hearts being like Jesus, our outward lives can be also. A correct theoretical knowledge of Bible truth, may make us bigoted Pharisees, if we personally neglect to put the truth into practice; but if we really yield ourselves wholly to God and receive the fullness of His Spirit, then we shall be Christians indeed, and our thoughts, words, spirit and deeds will resemble those of our Saviour and elder Brother. —Pentecost.

COME TO JESUS.

Souls of men! why will ye scatter

Like a crowd of frightened sheep?

Foolish hearts! why will ye wander

From a love so true and deep?

It is God: His love looks mighty,

But is mightier than it seems!

'Tis our father: and his fondness

Goes far beyond our dreams.

There's a wideness in God's mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea:

There's a kindness in His justice,

Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows

Are more felt than up in heaven;

There is no place where earth's failings

Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader

Than the measures of man's mind;

And the Heart of the Eternal

Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love was but more simple

We would take Him at His word;

And our lives would all be sunshine

In the sweetness of our Lord.

—Faber.

Joy differs from happiness. Joy is from within; happiness is from without. Joy is a bubbling spring; happiness a passing shower. Sinners have an unholy, feverish, selfish "happiness" in things that "happen" to come along. The saint has a deep holy joy in God—in the abiding Comforter. The joy of the sinner is in self; the joy of the saint is in Jesus. "Not as the world giveth, give I unto you." No matter how much we are beset, our joy centers in Jesus; hence, no man can take it away. The sinner finds his joy in having his own way. The saint is building his joys on the eternal rock; the sinner on the sands of time.

IN ANY CASE.

No serious and sensible person goes into the ministry for an easy time. That some have an easy time is evident enough, but they either had no divine call, or have lost it and are mere professionals.

God took this into account when he set apart the Levites and said to them, "I am thy inheritance." While the other tribes had their lots and lands and all needed material possessions, the Levites were to find their living in God and the provision he was to constantly make for them.

Jesus said to His apostles and ministers, "I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Service and sacrifice are the lot of the true minister of Christ and all, more or less will be aware of this in the path of divine leadings.

One somewhat playfully says of the preacher:

"The preacher has a hard time. If his hair is gray, he is old. If he is a young man, he hasn't had experience. If he has eight children, he has too many. If he has none, he should have, and isn't setting a good example. If his wife sings in the choir, she is presuming. If she doesn't, she isn't interested in her husband's work. If a preacher reads from notes he is a bore. If he speaks extemporaneously, he isn't deep enough. If he stays at home in his study, he doesn't mix enough with the people. If he is seen around the streets, he ought to be home getting up a good sermon. If he calls on some very poor family, he is playing to the grand stand. If he calls at the home of the rich, he is an aristocrat. Whatever he does, someone could have told him how to do it better."

This is not all playful. It is stern fact. It is possible that many a true preacher has more depreciation than appreciation—for the latter he must wait. There is one who takes all into account and he will at last vindicate when and where vindication and appreciation will be worth while.—Christian Witness.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR LIFE?

Your life will be just what you make it.

What young people decide in early life to do they will do.

A man can be a policeman or a preacher, an agent for a fire insurance company or an agent for the kingdom of heaven.

A young woman may be a milliner, or a missionary, a stenographer, or a deaconess.

The police, the milliner, the stenographer, and the insurance agent are all necessary and honorable. But the question for you is this:

What can I do to bring the greatest good to the world, and the greatest glory to the kingdom of God?

It isn't a question of how much money you can make and how much ease you can have. The only question to be considered, "Where will my life count most?"

Do not say, "I have no call." The great need of the world is your call. Jesus so interpreted it: "Lift up your eyes, and behold, the fields are white unto the harvest." This white harvest field is calling you today. Decide now.—Robert Bryan Murrell.