

Imitating Jesus

1. Every Christian is predestined and called to become Christ-like. Rom. 8:29–30. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

2. Christians are renewed in the image of God and are being transformed more and more into the like-ness of Christ. 2 Cor. 3:18. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. **Col. 3:9–10.** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. **Eph. 4:22–24.** That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

3. We must imitate Jesus; we must walk as he walked. 1 John 2:6. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

4. Jesus calls us to become more like he is by imitating him. John 13:2–11. (*Jesus purposely modeled for his disciples as he washed their feet.*) **John 13:12–15.** So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

5. Jesus tells us to imitate him in loving one another, so that we may become more Christ-like. John 13:34–35. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **John 15:12.** “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” **Matt. 16:24.** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

6. Paul instructs us to imitate Jesus in order to be a blessing to others. Rom. 15:1–3. We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” **Eph. 5:1–2.**

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

7. Christians are to have a humble, self-sacrificing attitude. In this we must imitate Jesus. Phil. 2:3–8. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **1 John 3:16–18.** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

8. When someone wrongs us, we must imitate Jesus and not retaliate or get revenge in any way. He set an example for us to follow. 1 Peter 2:18–23. 1 Peter 2:20–21. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your

faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.

9. Paul imitated Jesus so that he could be a good example for other Christians. 1 Cor. 11:1. Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

10. Thessalonian Christians soon became good models for others, partly by imitating Jesus and his disciples. 1 Thess. 1:6–7. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

11. Christ-like obedience is the way to a Christ-like enjoyment of divine love, and the way to have your joy made complete. John 15:9–11. “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

12. The hope (certainty) of one day seeing Jesus face to face and being perfectly conformed to his image should motivate us to seek to be pure, even as he is pure. 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.

13. The risen Savior lives to God. We who have died and risen with Christ must do the same. Rom. 6:10–14.

Rom. 6:10–12. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.