

1. Love

1. Love. v22

Our God is a loving God, actually the Bible says He is love in **1Jn 4:8**. His love His eternal, profuse, profound, Priceless, unfailing and for generations. (**Ps 36:5 – 7, Ps100:5, Jer31:3**)

The Bible says we should love because God first loved us and He has commanded us to love others. **1Jn 4:11, 19 – 21**

How should we love?

a. Unconditionally.

God didn't wait for us to become perfect to love us, never should we therefore wait for others to become perfect before we love them (If they ever become perfect at all). **Rom 5:8**

b. Love the unlovable.

There are people we know crystal clearly they don't love us, they hate and don't wish us well, yet we are under divine instruction to love them if we are going to emulate Christ and bear the fruit of love.

Mat 5:43 - 46

c. Love practically.

When God loved us, He gave His Son. (**Jn 3:16 -18**). That was practical love. Let us pick a leaf from Him and love practically. John the Revelator also known by many as the Apostle of love makes a clarion call in his first epistle for us to have practical love. **1Jn 3:16 – 18**

2. Joy

- Jesus was full of joy in the Holy Spirit at the time when He praised God.

Lk 10:21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

- We are commanded to be joyful always. 1Thess 5:16 Be joyful always;
- God is not satisfied with only righteousness and peace in our lives but also joy. Listen to what the Apostle Paul writes in Rom 14:17.

3. Peace

- Our God, is a God of peace, so should we be. [Isa 9:6](#), [2Thess 3:16](#) cf [Jn 14:27](#)
- Having peace doesn't mean absence of trouble or affliction. But in the midst of stormy situations the Bible invites us to have peace. [Jn 16:33](#)

How is that possible?

- **Pray over it.** This gives you confidence that the Almighty God knows about what you are going through. Prayer is an antidote to anxiety. [Phil 4:6 –7](#) fc [1Pt 5:7](#)
- **Trust God.** [Isa 26:3](#)
- You can never trust the God you don't know. This calls for taking in His word that we may know Him and be able trust Him.
- The knowledge of our God is the anchor during stormy times and can enable us have peace despite the tempest.

4. Patience

- The scriptures show us that God is Patient. **Rom 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?**
- Patience means willingness to wait if necessary and not losing one's temper or complaining while waiting. This could be waiting for a person or even waiting for God to deliver on His promises.
- God wants us to bear this fruit of the Spirit and patiently wait. The Apostle Paul writes in **Rom12:12, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in pray”**

5. Kindness

- God is kind, and the Bible says His kindness leads sinners toward repentance. So it goes without any misgivings that God is kind. **Rom 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?**
- Kindness is a sincere desire for the happiness of others. It is the inner disposition, created by the Holy Spirit, that causes us to be sensitive to the needs of others, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

Philippians 2:4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

6. Goodness

- Kindness and Goodness are closely related that they are sometimes used interchangeably. Kindness and goodness involve an active desire to recognize and meet the needs of others.
- Goodness is Kindness in action – words and deeds. It involves deliberate deeds that are helpful to others.

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- Let us imitate Christ, the Bible says He went around doing good. Acts 10:37-38

7. Faithfulness

- What is faithfulness? The biblical word denotes that which is firm and can be counted upon. The English dictionary defines faithful as “firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty”. Some common synonyms are “Dependable,” “Reliable,” “Trustworthy,” and “Loyal”. The word also has the connotation of absolute honesty or integrity.
- Against that background, is God faithful? Yes the Bible says so. **Deut 32:4, Joshua 21:45, Ps 145:13, Jn 8:26 and Heb 10:23**

8. Gentleness

- The scriptures show us that Christ is gentle. **2Cor10:1**

Mat 11:28-29 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- Gentleness is an active trait, describing the manner in which we should treat others. Gentleness is mildness in dealing with others.
- The Apostle says we should clothe ourselves with gentleness. **Col 3:12**

9. Self-Control

Prov 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.

- Is the believer's wall of defense against the sinful desires that wage war against his soul.
- Self-control is the governing of one's desires. Having no discipline over ourselves, every temptation becomes an occasion of sin.
- If Jesus did not have self control He would have sinned the day He had an encounter with the devil (**Mat 4:1-10**)

Conclusion

Conclusion. The primary purpose of the church is to make Jesus' disciples. At the pinnacle of the discipling process the believers are expected to exhibit the character of Christ which is the fruit of the Spirit, let all of us make efforts to bear the fruit of the Spirit that we may be Christlike.