

# Live Like Christ Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, September 8, 2019

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**Main Theme** – The second installment of a multi-part series on the traits of Christ we are to mimic

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## WORSHIP & PRAYER

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Special Notes**
  - Women’s Ministry – Resuming Tuesday, September 10 (6:30–8pm)
  - Men’s Ministry – Saturday, September 14 (Barre Falls Dam)
  - CYC – Resuming Friday, September 13 (5:30–7:30pm)
- **Special Notes Pt. 2**
  - Spirit-Emphasis Week – September 15, 19–22 (Expound Upon Event)

## MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers. TWO offerings will be collected this morning:

- 1) The 1<sup>st</sup> offering goes to support this local work and community outreach
- 2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> offering goes to support our regular missionaries (foreign/domestic)

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

### **Luke 6:38 (NIV)**

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH**
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## INTRODUCTION

As always it is wonderful to see you. I do look forward to these moments of corporate worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes (**SLIDE**).

## SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

**FYI** – Last Sunday morning we began a new multi-part series on the character and nature of Jesus Christ. This series will spotlight those **PERFECTIONS** of His nature that **(a)** make Him worthy of our worship and **(b)** are worthy of imitation in the life of His followers. Remember...

**Romans 8:29a (NIV, emphasis mine)**

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of his Son . . .

**KEY** – Let us **STUDY** the life of Christ—and then let us **LIVE** like Christ!

## SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

**NOTE 1** – Last Sunday we studied the **HUMILITY** of Christ. We assessed Jesus' willingness to lay aside His personal desires in preference to the Lord and others (i.e., His selflessness and sacrificial service) (cf. Phil. 2:3–8; John 13).

**Q. To what degree do we exemplify such humility in kind?**

**NOTE 2** – Last Sunday we studied the **COMPASSION** of Christ. We assessed Jesus' sympathetic pity for the misfortune or suffering of others (i.e., His being so moved by the plight of others that He took deliberate action) (Matt. 9:35–36; Luke 7:11–15).

**Q. To what degree do we exemplify such compassion in kind?**

**NOTE 3** – Last Sunday we studied the **ACCEPTANCE** of Christ. We assessed Jesus' willingness to show welcome to/concern for every soul He encountered (i.e., the tax collector, prostitute, leper, physically afflicted, demon-possessed, widow, etc.) (cf. Lk 7:36–47)

**Q. To what degree do we exemplify such acceptance in kind?**

**KEY** – This morning I want to present more of the perfections of Christ (address personal impact).

## LONGSUFFERING

Let us begin by considering the LONGSUFFERING of Jesus Christ.

**NOTE** – Longsuffering has to do with PATIENCE (i.e., the capacity to wait with a good spirit). Of course, we could talk at length about Jesus’ patience in the midst of opposition and challenging circumstances. However, I want to consider His patience with PEOPLE—particularly His own followers.

**KEY** – Christ displayed AMAZING patience with His followers as they developed spiritually unto maturity. For instance, we would be mistaken to think that someone like Simon Peter was saved and then ready for the fullness of ministry that same day! Rather, Jesus worked patiently with Simon Peter for years (engaged in the process):

- Peter (like the others) often failed to understand Jesus’ teaching (Matt. 15:16; 16:1)
- Peter failed to understand the heart of Christ for all humanity (even kids) (Mark 10:13)
- Peter ultimately failed in his attempt to walk on the water (lost his focus) (Matt. 14:22)
- Peter often argued—amongst the apostles—who was to be the “greatest” (Mark 9:34)
- Peter doesn’t remain silent on the Mount of Transfiguration—reverential (Luke 22:24)
- Peter speaks for Jesus (without authorization) regarding the Temple tax (Matt. 17:24)
- Peter tries to deter Jesus from His life’s mission as it conflicted with his (Matt. 16:22)
- Peter fails to stay alert and ‘falls asleep’ in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:40)
- Peter foolishly strikes out at Jesus’ betrayal and cuts the ear off a guard (Jn. 18:10)
- Peter betrays Christ Jesus Himself by denying knowledge or association (Luke 22)
- Peter (like the others save for John) abandons Jesus Christ to die on the Cross
- Peter—after the death of Jesus Christ—returns to his life of fishing (Jn. 21)

**KEY** – Christ was longsuffering with Simon Peter and CULTIVATED him into a spiritual pillar/giant.

### **Acts 2:1–4, 14a**

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

...

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd . . . (3k saved).

**Q. To what degree are we longsuffering with people (i.e., like Jesus the Christ)?**

**Q. To what degree are we patient in their cultivation or 'quick' to cut them off?**

**1 Corinthians 13:4a (1<sup>st</sup> Attribute of Love)**

4 Love is patient . . .

**Ephesians 4:1–2**

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14**

14 . . . we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

**ILL.** – According to a traditional Hebrew story, Abraham was sitting outside his tent one evening when he saw an old man, weary from age and journey, coming toward him. Abraham rushed out, greeted him, and then invited him into his tent. There he washed the old man's feet and gave him food and drink.

The old man immediately began eating without saying any prayer or blessing. So, Abraham asked him, "Don't you worship God?" The old traveler replied, "I worship fire only and reverence no other god." When he heard this, Abraham became incensed, grabbed the old man by the shoulders, and threw him out his tent into the cold night air.

When the old man had departed, God called to his friend Abraham and asked where the stranger was. Abraham replied, "I forced him out because he did not worship you." God answered, "I have suffered him these eighty years although he dishonors me. Could you not endure him one night?"

## **FORGIVENESS**

Secondly, let us consider the FORGIVING nature of Jesus Christ.

**NOTE** – Forgiveness means to pardon or absolve. Thus, to forgive is to RELEASE bitterness, wrath and the need for personal retribution (leaving vengeance to the Lord alone). Christ displayed amazing forgiveness! Numerous examples could be shared, but I have chosen the simplest/most radical display:

**Luke 23:34 [Context – Crucifixion]**

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

**Q. What could Jesus have done in that moment? Summoned judgment!**

**Q. What did He do instead? He released bitterness/wrath and trusted God!**

**KEY** – A spirit of forgiveness **MUST** inhabit the heart of His people (you and me):

**Ephesians 4:31–32**

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Colossians 3:12–14**

12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**Matthew 18:21–35**

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags [talents] of gold was brought to him [**NOTE** – 1 talent = 20 years wages → 10k = 200,000 years wages]. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins [**NOTE** – 1 denarii = 1 days wages → 100d = 100 days wages]. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ 30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

**NOTE** – This gives DEEPER meaning to the abovementioned phrases:

**Ephesians 4:32 (Emphasis Mine)**

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, **just as in Christ God forgave you.**

**Colossians 3:13 (Emphasis Mine)**

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

**KEY 1** – Forgiveness positively impacts the one who FORGIVES:

After the Civil War, Robert E. Lee visited a Kentucky lady who took him to the remains of a grand old tree in front of her house. There she bitterly cried that its limbs and trunk had been destroyed by Federal artillery fire. She looked to Lee for a word condemning the North or at least sympathizing with her loss. After a brief silence, Lee said, "Cut it down, my dear Madam, and forget it." It is better to forgive the injustices of the past than to allow them to remain, let bitterness take root and poison the rest of our life.

**KEY 2** – Forgiveness may well impact the one who is FORGIVEN:

The father of a newly-converted Chief of the Cree Indians of Alberta, Canada was murdered by a member of the opposing Blackfoot tribe. The Chief, then, rode into the village where the murderer lived and demanded that he be brought before him. Confronting the guilty man, he said: "You have killed my father, so now you must be my father. You shall ride my best horse and wear my best clothes." In amazement and remorse his enemy exclaimed, "My son, now you have killed me!" He meant, or course, the that hate in his own heart had been completely erased by the forgiveness of the Indian Chief.

## **SELF-CONTROL**

Thirdly, let us consider the SELF-CONTROL of Jesus Christ.

**NOTE** – Self-control (for the purposes of our discussion) pertains to the capacity to say "NO" to temptation and sin. It is the ability to RESIST the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life—PREFERRING instead a wholehearted devotion to God (cf. 1 John 2:16).

**KEY 1** – That Christ was SINLESS is beyond all contestation:

**Hebrews 4:15 (emphasis mine)**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—**yet he did not sin.**

**1 Peter 2:22 (emphasis mine)**

22 “He committed **no** sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

**1 John 3:5 (emphasis mine)**

5 . . . you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. **And in him is no sin.**

**KEY 2** – That Christ demonstrated SELF-CONTROL in the face of temptation is evident:

**Matthew 4:1–11**

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ [Deut. 8:3]”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ [Ps. 91:11, 12]”

7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ [Deut. 6:16]”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ [Deut. 6:13]” 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**Q. To what degree do we exemplify such self-control in kind?**

**Q. To what degree is there a persistent resistance to temptation?**

**Galatians 5:22 (emphasis mine)**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and **self-control**. Against such things there is no law.

**Titus 2:11–14 (emphasis mine)**

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say **“No”** to ungodliness and worldly passions, **and to live self-controlled**, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**2 Peter 1:3–9 (emphasis mine)**

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

**KEY** – You will never regret saying ‘NO’ to temptation. You will regret saying “YES” to it!

**ILL.** – “While my wife and I were shopping at a mall kiosk, a shapely young woman in a short, form-fitting dress strolled by. My eyes followed her. Without looking up from the item she was examining, my wife asked, “Was it worth the trouble you're in?” (Reader’s Digest)

**CONCLUSIONS**

**NOTE 1** – We have taken the time to study the nature/character of Christ.

**NOTE 2** – We must consider the degree to which His character informs ours.

LET US SEEK TO LIVE LIKE JESUS IN ALL THAT WE DO – Allowing His life to impact ours!

**James 1:22**

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.