

Character of Jesus (not exhaustive)

Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5.22-23)

State of our heart before God –

- **Love** – foundational virtue for all other virtues
 - **Towards others** - seeking the good of another even at great personal cost
 - **Towards God** – affectionate trust
 - **Affectionate** – speaks to Father/child relationship which is the core of salvation
 - **Trust** – complete reliance, total dependence; is lived out/expressed as obedience (if you love Me, you will obey My commands)
 - **Description from 1 Corinthians 13.4-7:**
 - **Patient**- KJV ‘suffers long,’ idea is taking a long time before fuming/breaking into flames; long-fuse
 - **Kind**- to do something useful for another
 - **Does not envy**- doesn’t compete w/others for power, possessions, position, privilege, etc.
 - **Does not boast**- is not a windbag, ostentatious, call undue attention to self
 - **Is not proud**- ‘puffed up,’ arrogant
 - **Is not rude**- behave indecently, cause others to blush
 - **Is not self-seeking**- seeks good of others
 - **Is not easily angered**- is not touchy or thin-skinned
 - **Keeps no record of wrongs**- doesn’t keep score; (also love keeps no record of what it’s done right either; doesn’t care about fair)
 - **Does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth**- Jesus’ character as measuring stick for truth
 - **Always protects**-
 - ‘to cover closely’ like a roof 1Pet 4.8
 - ‘to bear,’ Gal 6:2
 - **Always trusts**- not gullible, but doesn’t lose faith
 - **Always hopes**- has an expectation of a better future
 - **Always perseveres**- tenacious, doesn’t give up
- **Joy** – state of gladness/delight rooted in a conscious awareness of our relationship with God; has both an internal emotional response and an external action (rejoicing); Christian joy is not shaken by sorrow and tribulation, and indeed gives proof of its power precisely in the midst of them
 - **Happiness**- experience of gladness based on circumstances; differs from joy in duration (temporary vs permanent) and ground (circumstances vs relationship with God)
- **Peace**- a state of wholeness, well-being, and contentment that includes both a right relationship with God and loving harmony with one’s fellow human beings; a positive state of wholeness and soundness; rooted in conviction that God is good

State of our hearts towards others –

- **Patience** - quality of mind that disposes us “to take everything in good part and not to be easily offended;’ the ability to put up with other people even when that is not an easy thing to do; longsuffering towards those who aggravate or persecute; a long-suffering attitude towards other people, deferring one’s

anger under provocation, and refusing to retaliate for wrong done to oneself

- If perseverance is bearing up well under difficult circumstances, then patience is bearing up well up difficult people
- **Kindness** – the quality of being helpful or beneficial; not niceness; active word; closely connected to goodness
- **Goodness** – the idea of benevolence and generosity toward someone else, a going the second mile when it is not required; a practical generosity

State of our hearts relative to our own desires –

- **Gentleness** - not weakness or softness; strength under control, power harnessed in loving service and respectful actions; one who is gentle in this sense will not attempt to push others around or arrogantly impose one's own will on subordinates or peers; humble meekness
 - A smoldering wick He did not snuff out, a bruised reed He did not break
- **Faithfulness** – fidelity; the quality of being true, trustworthy, and reliable in all one's dealings with others; say what you mean and do what you say
- **Self-control** - mastery over one's desires and passions

Self-description of Jesus (Matt 11.29)

Gentle –

- Translated 'meek' in Mt 5.5; see Mt 21.5 for picture of gentleness
- **hard to define word** - not weakness or softness; strength under control, power harnessed in loving service and respectful actions

- one who is gentle in this sense will not attempt to push others around or arrogantly impose one's own will on subordinates or peers
- **Other-facing word** – speaks to how we treat others and how others experience us
- **Mt 12.20** - A smoldering wick He did not snuff out, a bruised reed He did not break
 - Bruised reeds and smoldering wicks are not just damaged, they are useless
 - **Reeds** – used to measure, if bent can't do that
 - **Strips of linen** – used for wicks; if smoldering not putting out light
 - **See gentleness in act of restoration** – His power harassed in love for and in service to others, particularly those who are hurting

Humble in heart – adjective; the noun is humility

- Unpretentious; being of low social status; lowliness of mind; recognizing our weakness and power of God
- Contrasted with proud, mighty, rich
- **Humble like the tax collector** – to see ourselves correctly; recognizing our sinfulness and need for grace (Lk 18.9-14)
 - Pharisee – thanks God that is 'not like' (better) than robbers, evildoers, and this tax collector; fasts 2x/wk and tithes
 - Tax collector – beats chest says 'have mercy on me a sinner'
- **Humble like a child** – to trust God complete; be utterly dependent upon the Lord for all our needs (Mt 18.1-4)
 - 12 arguing about who is greatest in Kingdom and Jesus puts a child in their midst and says whoever humbles themselves like this child will be greatest in Kingdom