



**How Caring for Others Makes Me More Like Jesus
November 19 & 20, 2022**

Purposes 3 and 4 (grACe) – We are here to Act more like Jesus and to Care for others every day.

Genesis 1:26a, 27 (NCV)

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image and likeness.” ... So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.

Every human being is:

- **An intellectual being – We can think, reason and solve problems just like God.**
- **A moral-conscious being – We can discern right from wrong and we are accountable to God.**
- **A relational being – We can give and receive love just like God.**
- **A spiritual being – We will all last forever just like God.**

Romans 5:12, 15-16 (NCV)

Sin came into the world because of what one man did, and with sin came death. This is why everyone must die—because everyone sinned... But God’s free gift is not like Adam’s sin. Many people died because of the sin of that one man. But the grace from God was much greater; many people received God’s gift of life by the grace of the one man, Jesus... God’s free gift came after many sins, and it makes people right with God.

All of us were infected by one sin; we want to be our own God.

Genesis 3:5b (NIV)

“...and you will be like God...”

God doesn’t want us to be God, He wants us to have godly character.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (MSG)

Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything - and I do mean everything - connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life - a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

How do we develop godly character?

1

Begin imitating the way Jesus lived.

Romans 8:29 (MSG) God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.

Colossians 1:15 (MSG)

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created.

Allow God's Spirit to work in and through me in 3 ways:

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

- **Choose to let go of my old way of life and sinful habits.**

Ephesians 4:24-25 (MSG)

...and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

- **Clean up the way I think and what I think about.**

Ephesians 4:23 (CEV)

Let the Spirit change your way of thinking...

- **Carry the character of Christ into every interaction.**

Colossians 3:12-15 (ESV)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Becoming Christlike by elevating God's Word:

- I must accept its authority. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (TPT)
- I must absorb its truth. James 1:21 (TPT)
- I must apply its principles. James 1:22 (TPT)

2

Care for others by serving in ministry the way Jesus served.

John 17:4 (MSG)

I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do.

Philippians 2:5-7 (ICB)

In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Christ himself was like God in everything. He was equal with God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be held on to. He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant.

Qualities of a real servant:

- Real servants make themselves available.

2 Timothy 2:4 (NLT)

Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

- Real servants pay attention to the needs of others.

Galatians 6:10 (TPT)

Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others, especially to our brothers and sisters in the family of faith!

- Real servants give God their best regardless of the conditions.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

- Real servants do every task with equal dedication.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (ICB)

Whatever work you do, do your best. This is because you are going to the grave. There is no working, no planning, no knowledge and no wisdom there.

Galatians 6:3 (NIV)

If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.

- Real servants are faithful to their ministry.

Luke 16:10 (TPT)

“The one who faithfully manages the little he has been given will be promoted and trusted with greater responsibilities. But those who cheat with the little they have been given will not be considered trustworthy to receive more.”

- **Real servants maintain a low profile.**

Matthew 6:1a (TPT)

“Examine your motives to make sure you’re not showing off when you do your good deeds...”

Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.

- **Real servants share their struggles.**

2 Corinthians 12:9a (LB)

“My power shows up best in weak people.”

2 Corinthians 13:4 (GNT)

For even though it was in weakness that he was put to death on the cross, it is by God's power that he lives. In union with him we also are weak; but in our relations with you we shall share God's power in his life.

- **Real servants give generously.**

Hebrew 13:16 (NLT)

And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NLT)

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

Moving from transactional to transformational giving:

- **Transactional giving – Those who tithe and sometimes give an extra gift hoping it makes an immediate difference.**
- **Transformational giving - Those who take their generosity and use it to change lives and leave a legacy of community transformation.**



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