

What Saith the Scripture?

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## Mandatory Traits of a True Christian

### Mandatory Trait 1. Loving

"As He is, so are we in this world"

(1John 4:17).

"22 The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith,  
23 Meekness, Temperance: against such there is no Law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"

(Galatians 5:22-25).

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### Mandatory Trait 1.

#### Loving

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is Love**"

(1John 4:8).

#### Preface

The first "Fruit of the Spirit is Love" (Galatians 5:22). *True* Christians are to "live in the Spirit" and "walk in the Spirit" (5:25). "What saith the Scripture" (Romans 4:3) concerning this mandatory characteristic that all *true* children have from their Father?

Loving the LORD is what a *true* Christian does best! "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt Love the LORD thy God with **all** thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy mind" (Matthew 22:37). His Perfect Example shows us that His Love to us is an absolutely essential element in the essence of His Being. "And we have known and believed the Love that God hath to us. **God is Love**; and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1John 4:16). "I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare it: that the Love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:26). In fact, the LORD gives us the proof of our profession in Him by saying, "Whoso **keepeth His Word**, in him verily is the Love of God perfected: hereby **know** we that we are in Him" (1John 2:5). The Scriptural description of a *true and loving* person who walks in the Love of God, is this: "For this is the Love of God, that **we keep His Commandments**: and His Commandments are not grievous [not a burden, but a Joy]" (1John 5:3). A *true* Christian is one who joyfully obeys God because he **wholly loves** God!

- (Psalm 89:7) "God is greatly to be feared [i.e., held in awe for Who He is and for what He can do] in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him."
- (Psalm 30:4) "Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His

Holiness."

- (Psalm 145:10) "ALL THY WORKS shall praise Thee, O LORD; and Thy saints shall bless Thee."
  - (Matthew 8:27) "The men marvelled, saying, What manner of Man is this, that **even** the winds and the sea obey Him!
  - (Luke 17:6) "And the LORD said, If ye had Faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."
  - (Acts 5:32) "We are **His witnesses** of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him."
  - (Mark 1:27) "And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with Authority commandeth He **even** the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him."

God's Love to us benefits us supremely and brings to Himself such expressive happiness that our God breaks out in rapturous melody! "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is Mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with Joy; He will rest in His Love, **He will Joy over thee with singing**" (Zephaniah 3:17). In return, we are to "Love the LORD thy God with **all** thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy mind, and with **all** thy strength: this is the First Commandment" (Mark 12:30). For "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is Love**" (1John 4:8). "What saith the Scripture" (Romans 4:3) concerning this mandatory characteristic that all *true* children have from their Father?

### **The Standard-- God is Love**

It's easy to see the LORD as The Standard, and His Word, The Standard Bearer. "For ever, O LORD, Thy Word is settled in Heaven... Thy Word is True from the beginning: and every one of Thy Righteous Judgments endureth for ever" (Psalm 119:89,160). Since Heaven is the goal mark in every pilgrim's journey, then, O LORD, "Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Our Divine Standard is Love, Himself. "God is Love" (1John 4:8). Let the Word of the LORD be the Banner over us, binding us to Him in Love. "He brought me to the Banqueting House, and His Banner over me was Love" (Song 2:4).

- "Thy Word is very Pure: therefore Thy servant loveth it" (Psalm 119:140).

This Banner of Love that He has placed over us, is the LORD's Proclamation concerning us. He loves us! "God, Who is rich in Mercy, for His Great Love wherewith He loved us" (Ephesians 2:4). Oh, what Great Love! "For God so loved the world, that **He gave His Only Begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life" (John 3:16).

- (1John 4:9-13) "9 **In this was manifested the Love of God toward us**, because that **God sent His Only Begotten Son** into the world, that we might **live** through Him. 10 **Herein is Love**, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us**, and **sent His Son** to be the Propitiation [the Substitute] for

our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 12 No man hath seen God at any time. **If we love** one another, **God dwelleth in us**, and His Love is **perfected** in us. 13 Hereby **KNOW** we that we dwell in Him, and He in us."

What more could the LORD's people need from their God, but, that He Loves them! "The greatest of these is Charity [Love]" (1Corinthians 13:13). For, "we are **more** than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Romans 8:37). He is the Defining of Love to us. "10 Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us**, and **sent His Son** to be the Propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1John 4:10-11)!

- (2John 1:5-6) "5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from The Beginning, that we Love one another. 6 And **this is Love, that we walk after His Commandments**. This is the Commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."
- (Romans 8:38-39) "38 I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD."
- (1Corinthians 2:9) "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that Love Him."

### **True Christians Love The Standard**

God's people Love Him carefully and with diligence. "Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye **Love the LORD** your God" (Joshua 23:11). They do not take Him for granted, but purposefully "keep His Commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1John 3:22). God's Word is Absolute, and He deserves to be taken absolutely at His Word. "Great and Marvellous are Thy Works, LORD God Almighty; Just and True are Thy Ways, Thou King of saints" (Revelation 15:3). "Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them" (Deuteronomy 11:16).

Love is a trait to be demonstrated. "If ye love Me, keep My Commandments" (John 14:15). The Father's Love to us is seen and known by us. "Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us, and sent His Son** to be the Propitiation for our sins" (1John 4:10). Therefore, **if** we *truly* have Godly Love, we **will** show it. "That thou mayest **Love** the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest **obey** His Voice, and that thou mayest **cleave** unto Him: for He is thy Life, and the length of thy days" (Deuteronomy 30:20). The Apostle James, the brother of the LORD Jesus, stated this Divine Truth, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that Faith without Works is dead?" (James 2:20). He then goes on to demonstrate this statement with two illustrations from the Old Testament. "21 Was not Abraham our father **justified by Works**, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how Faith wrought with his Works, and by Works was Faith made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by Works a man is justified, and not by Faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by Works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so Faith without

Works is dead also" (James 2:21-26).

- (1John 4:7-8) "7 Beloved, let us Love one another: for **Love is of God**; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is Love**."
- (1John 4:12) "If we **Love one another**, God dwelleth in us, and His Love is perfected in us."
- (1John 4:20) "If a man say, I Love God, and **hateth** his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, **how can he Love God** Whom he hath not seen?"
- (Hebrews 6:10) "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and **labour of Love**, which ye have showed toward His Name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

(1.) **A true Christian loves the LORD because He is the LORD.**

- (Revelation 11:17) "Saying, We give Thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which Art, and Wast, and Art To Come; because Thou hast taken to Thee Thy Great Power, and hast Reigned".
- (Revelation 1:8) "I am Alpha and Omega, The Beginning and The Ending, saith the LORD, which Is, and which Was, and which is To Come, the Almighty."
- (Joshua 22:5) "Take diligent heed to **do** the Commandment and the Law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to **Love the LORD** your God, and to walk in ALL His Ways, and to keep His Commandments, and to cleave unto Him, and to serve Him with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul."
- (Deuteronomy 11:22-28) "28 If ye shall **diligently** keep ALL these Commandments which I command you, to **do** them, to **Love the LORD** your God, to **walk** in ALL His Ways, and to cleave unto Him; 23 then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. 24 Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours... 25 There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as He hath said unto you. 26 Behold, I set before you this day a Blessing and a Curse; 27 a Blessing, **if ye obey** the Commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: 28 and a Curse, **if ye will not obey** the Commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of The Way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."
- (2Corinthians 6:17-18; 7:1) "17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the LORD, and touch not the unclean thing; and **I will receive you**, 18 and **will be a Father unto you**, and **ye shall be My sons and daughters**, saith the LORD Almighty... 7:1 Having therefore these Promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting Holiness in the fear of God."
- (Deuteronomy 30:6, 16, 20) "6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the

heart of thy seed, to **Love the LORD** thy God with ALL thine heart, and with ALL thy soul, that thou mayest live... 16 I command thee this day to **Love the LORD** thy God, to walk in His Ways, and to keep His Commandments and His Statutes and His Judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 20 That thou mayest **Love the LORD** thy God, and that thou mayest obey His Voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy Life, and the Length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land."

- (Hebrews 8:10; 9:14; 10:16) "8:10 For this is the Covenant that I will make... saith the LORD; I will put My Laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people... 9:14 How much more shall the Blood of Christ, Who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself **without spot** to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?... 10:16 This is the Covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the LORD, I will put My Laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."
- (1John 4:16,19) "16 And we have known and believed the Love that God hath to us. God is Love; and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God in him... 19 We love Him, because He **first** loved us."
- (1Corinthians 8:3) "But if any man love God, the same is known of Him."
- (James 1:12) "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the LORD hath promised to them that love Him."

**(2.) A true Christian does thoroughly love and appreciate the blessings from their LORD.**

- (Revelation 16:7) "LORD God Almighty, True and Righteous are Thy Judgments".
- (Psalm 54:5, 97:10) "54:5 He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in Thy Truth... 97:10 Ye that **Love the LORD**, hate evil: He **preserveth** the souls of His saints; He **delivereth** them out of the hand of the wicked."
- (Psalm 34:9) "O fear the LORD, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him."
- (Deuteronomy 11:13-15) "13 If ye shall hearken diligently unto My Commandments which I command you this day, to **Love the LORD** your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 that I will **give you the rain** of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest **gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil**. 15 And I will send **grass in thy fields for thy cattle**, that thou mayest eat and be full."
- (Deuteronomy 11:18-20) "18 Therefore shall ye lay up these My Words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a Sign upon your hand, that they may be as Frontlets between your eyes. 19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and

when thou risest up. 20 And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates."

- o (Psalm 103) "2 **Bless the LORD**, O my soul, and **forget not** all His benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with Lovingkindness and Tender Mercies; 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with Good Things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The LORD executeth Righteousness and Judgment for all that are oppressed.

7 He made known His Ways unto Moses, His Acts unto the children of Israel.

8 The LORD is Merciful and Gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in Mercy.

9 He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the Heaven is high above the Earth, so great is His Mercy toward them that fear Him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him.

14 For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust...

17 The Mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His Righteousness unto children's children;

18 to such as keep His Covenant, and to those that remember His Commandments to DO them.

19 The LORD hath prepared His Throne in the Heavens; and His Kingdom ruleth over all.

20 Bless the LORD, ye His **angels**, that excel in strength, that DO His Commandments, hearkening unto the Voice of His Word.

21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye His **hosts**; ye ministers of His, that DO His Pleasure.

22 Bless the LORD, all His **works** in all places of His Dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul."

### ***True Christians Love Each Other***

The Scriptural Love of God-- whether in reference to the Father's Love coming down, or in the *true* Christian's Love going Up-- both are tried in the exercise of knowing the Recipient, or even, recipients. "Beloved, let us Love one another: for Love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of

God, and knoweth God" (1John 4:7)..

- (1John 4:8-9) "8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love. 9 In this was manifested the Love of God toward us, because that God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."

The Love of the Father proves to us, that to Love someone is to know them. "But if any man Love God, the same is **known** of Him" (1Corinthians 8:3). And we, in turn, knowing the Father, Love Him. "And we have **known** and believed the Love that God hath to us. God is Love; and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1John 4:16).

- (1John 4:17-18) "Herein is our Love made Perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because **as He is, so are we** in this world. 18 There is no fear in Love; but Perfect Love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is NOT made Perfect in Love."
- (1John 2:14) "I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have **known** Him that is from The Beginning."

*True* Christians then, have Eternal Hope for their neighbors, when they Love their neighbors

- (Galatians 5:13-14) "13 By Love serve one another. 14 For all the Law is fulfilled in one Word, even in this; Thou shalt Love thy neighbour as thyself."

***True Christians, when operating in God's Love, refuse to sin.***

As Christians in this world, we are to be like our LORD because we love Him. "Herein is our **love made perfect**, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because **as He is, so are we** in this world" (1John 4:17). It is an aspect of our God-given-Image of Himself, our Free Will, which we exercise in Love to our Creator. "So God created man in His Own Image, in the Image of God created He him; male and female created He them" (Genesis 1:27). In Christ are we called "Christians" (Acts 11:26), and it is in His Likeness that we **purpose** to live. "Christ, Who is the Image of God" (2Corinthians 4:4). We **purpose** to live without sin. "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God **keepeth himself**, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (1John 5:18).

- (1John 3:9) "**Whosoever** is born of God doth **not commit sin**; for His Seed remaineth in him: and he cannot [because he will not] sin, because he is born of God."

"Sin willfully, selfishly chooses to walk contrary to the Truth. 'Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the Law: for sin is the transgression of the Law' (1John 3:4). How, then, can we see the continued death of selfishness? 'O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?' (Romans 7:24). Well, if you mean that we should have no more physical self-interest-- that will never be until we get to Heaven. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him' (1Corinthians 2:9). The natural limitations of being a moral agent clothed with flesh, place us in the position of being **always with the capacity to sin** without necessarily the bent, inclination, or tendency to sin; therefore,

holiness or godly living, manwardly speaking, must simply be our **willingness to obey** God and our **commitment to refuse all temptation to sin**, i.e., *we cannot sin because we will not sin*. 'Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God' (1John 3:9). Godwardly speaking, Holiness is God spiritually cleansing and thereby separating man from his sin, while giving him an aversion to sinning. '5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts. 6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged' (Isaiah 6:5-7). 'What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common' (Acts 11:9). But, if you mean that **we can live without the bondage of continually sinning**, then 'thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ' (1Corinthians 15:57)! Wonderful provision has been made to keep us from walking in selfishness! '1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death' (Romans 8:1-2)." (Please read our article, "[The Death of Selfishness](http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Death_of_Selfishness.html) -- [http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Death\\_of\\_Selfishness.html](http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Death_of_Selfishness.html) --.)

If you really love God, if you really believe that Jesus is God, then the Scripture says you WILL demonstrate it by obedience. If you don't, then you won't.

- (1John 5:2-6) "2 By this we know that we Love the children of God, when we Love God, and keep His Commandments. 3 For **this is the Love of God, that we keep His Commandments**: and His Commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the Victory that overcometh the world, even our Faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God."

It is our job to work the "work of Faith, and labour of Love, and patience of Hope in our LORD Jesus Christ" (1Thessalonians 1:3). Our effort is as if it depended on us, but our Faith and Trust is as if it depended only on God. "Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17).

- (Psalm 97:10) "Ye that **Love the LORD, hate evil**: [and the Promise attached to this Command--] **He preserveth the souls of His saints; He delivereth them** out of the hand of the wicked."
- (Jude 24-25) "24 Now unto Him that is able **to keep you** from falling, and **to present you** faultless before the presence of His Glory with Exceeding Joy, 25 to the Only Wise God Our Saviour, be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and ever."
- (Philippians 2:13) It is "God which worketh in [us] both **to will** and **to do** of His Good Pleasure."

"The Truth is that no man will ever do as he is able to do or ought to do without the intervention of the Grace of God. 'But **by the Grace of God I am what I am**: and His Grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the Grace of God which was with me' (1Corinthians 15:10). For this reason, when we ever do choose to repent, believe, and obey, we may trust that it is

'God which worketh in [us] both to will and to do of His Good Pleasure' (Philippians 2:13). **Since obedience to God is the unselfishness of Love, then selfishness dies the moment we choose to obey.** 'He that hath My Commandments, and **keepeth** them, he it is that **loveth** Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him' (John 14:21). On the other hand, *we resurrect selfishness, when we choose to disobey.* 'The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways' (Proverbs 14:14). We must then continually entrust the LORD as the Keeper of Our Soul to deliver us from sin and sinning. 'O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in Thee' (Psalm 25:20)." (Please read our article, "[The Death of Selfishness](http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Death_of_Selfishness.html) -- [http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Death\\_of\\_Selfishness.html](http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Death_of_Selfishness.html) --.)

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