

## Attributes of the Christian Life

### Love, Joy, and Peace

Galatians 5:22-23; Selected Scriptures

#### 1. Love and Being Loving

- A. A Definition of Love (1 Cor 13:4-8a; 1 John 4:8-10)  
God is love, and as Christians we must always be diligent to intentionally ground our definition of love in who God is and what He has said.
- B. Experiencing God's Love (Eph 5:25; 1 Pet. 4:8)  
The experience of salvation (past, present, and future), is the way in which believers most directly and perfectly experience God's love (1 John 4:10). However, we also can enjoy the experience of God's unchanging attitude of love in our interactions with other believers.
- C. Loving Others (John 13:35; Gal. 5:14; Eph 5:25; 1 John 4:7; cf. Luke 10:25ff)  
The way in which God's love has been displayed to man is in His self-sacrificial giving of Himself for people who did not love Him. This is the model for Christians as we love one another.

#### 2. Joy and Being Joyful

- A. A Definition of Joy (Matt. 13:44; Luke 2:10; Heb. 12:2)  
Joy is a motivating and sustaining experience which, is positive and lasting, that is rooted in the knowledge of the truthfulness of God's nature and plan.
- B. Experiencing the Joy of the Lord (Neh. 8:10; Matt 25:21, 23; John 15:5; cf. 1 John 1:4; 2 John 4; 3 John 4)
- C. Rejoicing in the Lord (Phil. 3:1; 4:4; 1 Pet. 4:12-13)  
This is the intentional expression of praise to and hope in God in any and all circumstances. It is rooted in both knowledge and faith of what he has said.

#### 3. Peace and Being Peaceful

- A. A Definition of Peace (Judg. 6:24; Rom. 5:1, 10-11; Col. 1:21-22)  
Peace is the opposite of war or the presence of harmony among individuals; concord as opposed to strife and is closely tied to happiness. This is the objective way in which a believer actually experiences peace as well: peace with God.
- B. Experiencing the Peace of God (John 14:27; Phil 4:4-7; Col 3:15)  
The peace of God has a direct effect upon the power that fear can have over the believer (cf. Luke 12:4-5). The subjective experience of the peace of God is connected to the faithfulness of devotion to the Lord.

- C. Being Peaceful (cf. Luke 10:6; Rom 8:6; 14:17, 19; Rom 15:13)  
Peace is a quality that will characterize those in whom the gospel finds a reception (Luke 10:6; 2 Pet 3:14) as well as the peace that comes from a mind set on God (Rom 8:6) trusting in what He has said (Rom 15:13). It will also be evident in intentional Christian harmony (Rom 14:17, 19).