

Hay Ride – Oct. 14 – Let us know if you need a ride!

CBF Thanksgiving Dinner – Nov. 11 – details to come

My Characteristics – Characteristics of a follower of Christ

Characteristic = a distinguishing trait, quality, or property

Review:

My Foundation, My Decision, My Identity, My Priorities, My Directions

1. A follower of Christ has a relationship with God. - John 10:3-4, 10, 14

A follower of Christ must first get to know the Good Shepherd.

- Acknowledge that I have fallen short of God's perfect standard for life .
(Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23a)
- Believe that God made a way for forgiveness of our failure and to have a relationship with Him. (Romans 5:8, John 3:16, Romans 6:23b Romans 10:9-10)
- Call on Jesus to accept His gift of forgiveness and peace.
(Romans 10:13)

2. A follower of Christ constantly learns from the Bible and puts what they learn into action.

3 Abiding in our relationship with God and in the Bible produces fruit in our lives.

A. John 8:31

- "Abide" = not to depart, to be held or kept continually
- "Word" = a reference to Jesus' teachings

B. John 15:5

- "Abides in me" = a reference to our relationship with God, close and personal
- "Fruit" = characteristics that are produced as a result of ones relationship with God and obedience to His Word
- These characteristics are impossible to maintain without a relationship with God.

C. Galatians 5:22

- This list shows the results of abiding in our relationship with God and His Word
- I Corinthians 13:13, Matthew 22:36-39

4. A follower of Christ has genuine love for others.

- John 13:34-35

A. Genuine love vs. the world's "love" – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Genuine Love	The World's version
selfless, humble, seeks the other's best (even at my own expense), choice-based, patient, forgiving, trusting, stays true even when feelings aren't present	selfish, self-satisfying, feeling based, little to do with the other person, often less forgiving of offenses, less trusting, leaves when feelings change

B. Christ gave us the ultimate example! "...just as I have loved you" (vs. 34)

C. Why are we to love one another?

- God's love for us. – Romans 12:1
- In the Bible, we are commanded to love others.
- It is how we show the world that we are following Christ.

The Challenge:

1. Without a relationship with God, we cannot be followers of Christ. With it we can thrive and produce the fruit that results from our relationship with God and obedience to His Word (the Bible)
2. Where are you on this journey? Do you have a relationship with God? Are you studying the Bible and doing what you learn? Do you exhibit the kind of love to others that God showed to you?
3. What is the next step in your life to becoming a Follower of Christ?