

50 Character Traits, To Be Like Jesus:

What "Being Like Jesus" might look like for You

Reflection Perhaps you remember the old gospel song whose lyrics went, "To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I ask is to be like Him."

That's an awesome thing – to be like Jesus. If you knew someone who is truly like Jesus, wouldn't you want to spend time around them? Wouldn't you want to be more like them? Indeed, Paul says that's exactly God's goal for us: "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son." (Romans 8:29)

How well are you doing in that department? Periodically it's smart to check our transformation progress.

The longer you and I continue in the Christian life, the more we should be coming to being like Jesus. But what does that look like? How can you tell if you're making progress?

Being like Jesus includes both "soft" and "hard" characteristics – traits that feel warm and inviting, and those that feel tough. Think of the Bible characters you know, or revered Christians who have lived since Jesus' time. Every personality is represented, but many of the underlying character traits are similar. God can begin with you at whatever stage you are right now, but as you mature these character traits should be increasingly evident.

Here's a starting list of positive character qualities that being like Jesus would include. Some of these you and I are probably exhibiting fairly well, and others we need to grow further into. See how you might stack up on this list.

What it looks like to Be Like Jesus

Loving – loving people well

Joyful – much deeper than happiness

Peaceful – living with peace even in difficult circumstances

Peacemaker – spreading calm by your presence

Courageous – moving forward on your mission in the face of opposition

Wise – synthesizing information to make good decisions

Merciful – giving others grace wherever possible

Kind – treating others with respect and goodness

Slow to speak – listening more than talking

Resilient – returning to your mission any time tough things try to move you off course

Perceptive – seeing behind the words and actions of others

Forgiving – able to let offenses go

Obedient – living your life before an audience of One – God, following all His directions

Full of faith – relying on God to be and do what He says He will do

Faithful – someone others can count on

Humble – thinking of others more than yourself (not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less)

Generous – freely giving what you have to those who are able to receive it
Self-controlled – not ruled by your appetites
Passionate – putting your whole heart into your mission
Perseverant – not letting circumstances or distractions dissuade you from your mission
Godly – constantly mindful of God's perspective on your life and mission
Integrity – being the same regardless of who is (or isn't) watching
Prayerful – regularly communicating personally with God
Truthful – honest, having nothing to hide
Sacrificial – willing to give yourself, when God so directs, even when it hurts
Righteous – doing everything such that God would approve
Hopeful – mindful of heavenly eternity even when things look dark
Fully alive – living each moment to the full – physically, emotionally, spiritually
Growing – always increasing in maturity, wisdom, skills
Thankful – acknowledging to God and others the gifts you receive
Diligent – investing your time and other resources to get a good return
Excellent – doing all that you do to the very best of your ability
Jealous – fighting against injustice when those close to you are in danger or harmed
Intimate – willing and able to share the deepest parts of you with select others
Friendly – willing and able to enter into and participate in other people's worlds
Servant minded – looking more for what you can give than what you can get
Self-aware – conscious of what you think, know, and feel
Confident – absolutely certain of who you are and what your mission is
Patient – invested fully in the now while allowing God to direct future results
Flexible – able to adjust tactics without changing mission
Unafraid – not moved by fear in any dimension
Valuable – making other's lives better by your involvement with them
Self-protective – risking yourself only when others can truly benefit
Inspiring – living in such a way that others are lifted up
Spirit-filled – allowing the Holy Spirit inside you to do what He wills with you
Calm – not emotionally flustered by opposition or circumstances
Nurturing – caring tenderly for those who are hurting or broken
Healed – not controlled by wounds from your past
Healthy – refusing to indulge in anything – mentally or physically – that might lessen your wellbeing or fitness for mission
Discerning – able to determine the source of an action or circumstance – from God, from the enemy, or from a person