

What Are the Traits of Being Christian?

To be a Christian is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, following His teachings and example in faith, obedience, and love. The Scriptures describe several defining traits that mark the life of a true believer.

First, a Christian is characterized by love, both for God and for others. Jesus commanded:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37, LSB)

And again:

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39, LSB)

Love is the foundation of Christian life. Jesus said:

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35, LSB)

A Christian also walks in obedience to God's commandments. Jesus emphasized:

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15, LSB)

True faith is expressed through a transformed life marked by holiness and righteousness.

Humility and a servant's heart are also central traits. Jesus set the example:

“For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, LSB)

The Christian is called to deny self, take up the cross, and follow Jesus:

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23, LSB)

Patience, forgiveness, and mercy are essential characteristics. Jesus taught:

“For if you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” (Matthew 6:14, LSB)

The Christian must also endure trials and persecution with faithfulness. Jesus warned:

“And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.” (Matthew 10:22, LSB)

Lastly, a Christian exhibits the fruit of the Spirit as described by Paul:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22–23, LSB)

Thus, the true traits of a Christian are not merely outward affiliation, but inward transformation shown in love, obedience, humility, faithfulness, and perseverance. A Christian lives by faith in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and devoted to glorifying God.

Referenced Scriptures (LSB):

- Matthew 22:37 — “And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”
- Matthew 22:39 — “‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
- John 13:35 — “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- John 14:15 — “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”
- Mark 10:45 — “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- Luke 9:23 — “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”
- Matthew 6:14 — “For if you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”
- Matthew 10:22 — “And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”
- Galatians 5:22–23 — “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”