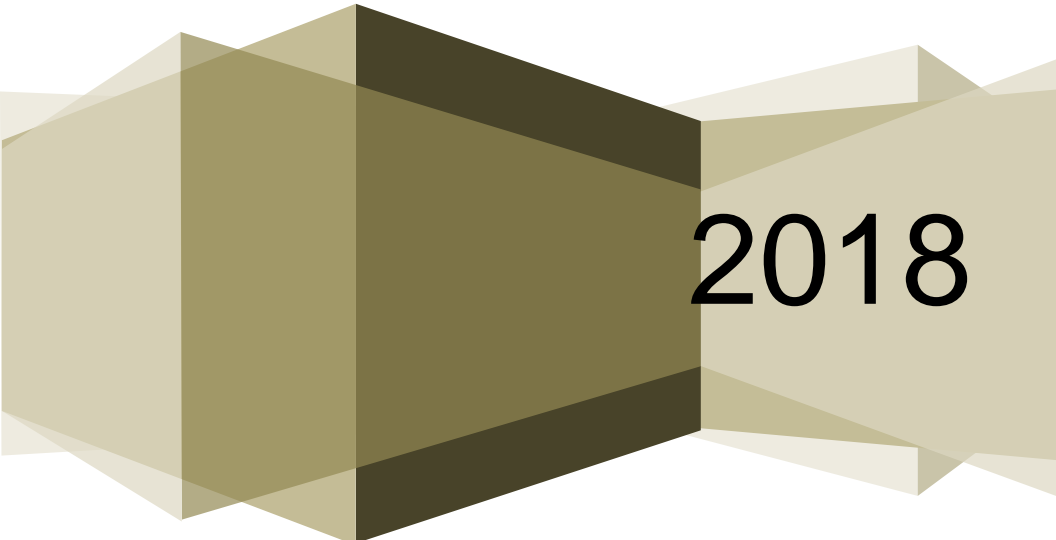


The Character of Disciple

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven.*

(Matthew 5:3)



2018

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The character of a disciple

I once heard the phrase “we live in the western world accidentally called Christian”. We recognize Christianity in the so called Christian world on the signs, the people names, the city names, but won’t go beyond that. With the “lawlessness will be increased” (Mat 24:12) in recent times, we see a terrible reversal of values. The “ugly” turned to be “beautiful” and what is “beautiful” turned to be “ugly”:

- Hardly anyone gives up the sit to a senior in the bus;
- Men talk to women as if talking to men;
- Open the door, to give way... no more;
- Whoever sits in the queue is silly, is smart who cuts the queue;
- Telling the truth? Stop with that!
- Loyalty, honesty ... don’t even think about it;
- Assume errors... what is that you’re talking about?
- Well, the list goes on and on.



*The life of the
disciple of the
Lord
confronts the
world with
the image of
Christ that he
reproduces.*

The world is like that, from bad to worse. And we're in it...

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (Joh 17:15)

... but we don't belong there.

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (Joh 17:16).

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. (Mat 5:13).

The life of the disciple of the Lord confronts the world with the image of Christ that he reproduces. There are powerful forces attacking us every day, trying to contaminate us with the wickedness of this world:

- Satan and his demons;
- Men with their minds perverted by sin;

- Culture trying to impose an anti-Christianism because we are not “normal”;
- And the worst of all – ourselves.

Flesh x Spirit

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (Gal 5:16-17).

Let's start thinking that our lives can manifest the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit. We know that the works of the flesh are natural to the “old man”, generated by sin and the absence of God. Moreover, in this world we are living the works of the flesh are encouraged and even worshiped.

Reading this text fills us with fear and faith.

- Fear because remember that the flesh is present and its fruits can be manifested in us.
- Faith for the Lord, through Paul, shows us the way to be victorious.

Therefore, I would like to highlight the following:

a) There is a war within us

“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh”. You must be aware of this conflict and what is happening within us. It is “for these are opposed to each other” that the conflict exists. The flesh always wants to go the opposite direction of the Spirit. Then we need to make the decision: where do we seed? In the flesh or in the Spirit? Who to feed? The flesh or the Spirit? In Galatians 6:7-8 we read:

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

b) The key is to walk in the Spirit

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Gal 5:16)

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom 7:25).

...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col 1:27)

To Walk in the Spirit. Develop fellowship with the Lord through prayer, praise, subjection to the body, giving thanks to God for everything, in fasting and in contact with the Word. Look at Jesus, demystifying, is to search the Scriptures everything that relates to Jesus Christ and to dive in these truths until we are filled up with them. For example, when we read John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” we are looking at Christ the Word, who did not begin his existence in Mary’s womb, but is eternal, was in beginning with God and was God himself. Hallelujah!

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Eph 5:18-21)

c) Recognize the works of the flesh

At this moment is important to know better who we are. Often, some of these things (works of the flesh) become so common that we end up maintaining them as if they are pets. We might think that by putting a pink bow and fragrance will no longer be the work of the flesh. Open your eyes, remove the ornaments and see the works of the flesh as they are. The works of the flesh: “sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these”.

Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. (Rom 13:13)

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers,

haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. (Rom 1:29-31)

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices (Col 3:8-9)

d) Manifest the fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

Is important to show what is this flesh that dwells in us, also show that those who are in Christ have received from the Lord the fruit of the Spirit. All of us who have been placed in Christ have “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”. If we walk in the Spirit each of these qualities of the Spirit will be manifested in us as needed, otherwise will be the works of the flesh manifested.

Character of Christ

Character would be a set of features, bad or good, that distinguishes someone.

- A person's character is manifested in the habitual manners of behaving in different situations of the everyday life.
- Character is revealed in family life, at work, in relationships, in dealing with our fellows, in our duties and responsibilities etc.
- The deepest aspect in the character of a person is known in how reacts when facing trials, against the temptation, adversity, misfortune, things hard to bear, when you suffer injustice, before someone in need and also when in success and prosperity.

However, the term "personality" is used to refer to what in our behavior is morally neutral. It is our individuality as God made each one of us. Each human being is unique and different from all the rest with the whole set of it's unique and permanent characteristics.

- For example: someone can be more effusive or quiet, more introverted or extroverted, more emotional or rational, with none of these types necessarily better than one another.

There are things related to your temper with which you born and will die with. For example persistence. Persistence is bad or good? Depends. Who will value persistence is character. In the world it becomes stubbornness, which is bad. In Christ becomes perseverance, which is good.

Often, the very personal characteristics that we have and that help us become our own stumbling block. Thus, the soft person can be, positively comprehensive, but negatively not firm. The outspoken person can be positively a faithful friend, but negatively rude. The most lucid person, positively can be enlightening, but negatively annoying and boring. The strongest person, an excellent leader and at the same time heavy and without mercy. One who sees concepts well can be a master, but also a hollow theorist. That which is attached to principles can be the mainstay of truth, but on the other hand, inconveniently forceful.

And in general, these characteristics usually manifest in our lives for both good and evil. How to be positive without manifesting a lot of negative things? What is the solution to this dilemma?

There's only one way out. Walking in the Spirit. To live through Jesus. For He is the sum of all the positive characteristics, and the most complete absence of evil.

(Marcos Moraes)

a) How will the character conforming

Repeating the same action by an individual, one, two, ten, a hundred times becomes a habit. If this habit has moral conduct aspects ends up incorporated as a defined characteristic of the character.

Such characteristics can be positive or negative, that is, they can be moral virtues such as:

. Honesty, generosity, humility, etc.

Or moral defects such as:

. Falsehood, anger, arrogance, selfishness etc.

Obviously, many of these characteristics will be forging from the childhood.



The repetition generates the habit that becomes a trait of character.

b) The man was created in the image of God

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
(Gen 1:27)

In what consist this image of God in man? Obviously it is not physical but spiritual. This means, among other things, that God created man with the same moral character as His. With the same moral virtues of God. This reveals that the original plan of God is that all descendants of Adam and Eve had the moral character of God.

We were not only predestined to be children of God, but to be made according to the image of his Son.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Rom 8:29)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2Co 3:18)

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Col 3:10)

These texts reveal that although man has sinned and lost the God's image, the redemptive plan of God in Christ is to transform us back until forming in us the character of Christ.

c) Passing through the "Sermon on the Mount"

Humbleness

Blessed are the poor in spirit... Mat 5:3

- . The poor in spirit are those who are aware that they have and are nothing.
- . Humbleness of heart is the cornerstone of the construction and development of the character.
- . It started with pride, Lucifer, Adam and Eve's, and consequently brought the rebellion against God. They wanted to be like God.
- . What are we? Earth dust, nothing. Everything that we are and have is given to us as a gift, grace from God. Humbleness is (should be) the most logical quality, more natural and inherent of human nature.
- . Pride, presumption, vanity, arrogance, self-sufficiency is foolishness, however, the strongest characteristic in men.

How the prideful behaves?

- . The prideful despises, criticizes, mocks his neighbor. Discusses, fights, is wise in his own eyes. He does not like to ask for forgiveness, believe that has always reason, do not know how to lose, is difficult to live with.
- . Prideful talks too much and listens too little, is harsh, inflexible, monopolizes conversations, exaggerates, lies, hide his flaws, falls in hypocrisy.
- . All the sons of Adam are prideful, this is our nature after the fall. But the prideful can humble himself. And the

first condition for humbleness is to recognize what you are.

- Jesus said: “He who humbles himself will be exalted.” The prideful can humble himself and be transformed into the image of Jesus.

Brokenhearted

Blessed are those who mourn... Mat 5:4

- Not those who mourn in anger or self-pity, but for a legitimate brokenness.

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isa 57:15)

- God promises that those who mourn will be comforted.

Meekness

Blessed are the meek... Mt 5:5

- Jesus said, “and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart”. (Mat 11:29). To be meek is the opposite of be rebellious. The meek obey in good-will, with peace and joy, are submissive, patient, have self-control.
- Rebellion may be violent, with screaming, fights, arguments, or it can also be a kind and quiet rebellion that finally makes his own will.
- Meek is the one who lives submissive to God, to his word to his brothers, to the authorities.
- Submissive children obey the parents and the wife is subject to her husband, and all subject to one another.
- Whoever is too meek accepts peacefully adversities and trials of life.

Justice

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... (Mat 5:6)

- Often this blessedness is not well understood. Does not refer to those who do require others to do justice at

them, but to those that the most desire in life is to be righteous and holy before God and men.

- Blessed are those who you the most desire in life is to be just, that is, to be like Jesus.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 5:20)

- True righteousness is God's one, which is inseparably linked to love and mercy. See Mat 6:1-4; 6:33, 2Co 8:14-15; 9:9-10.

Mercy

Blessed are the merciful... Mat 5:7

- The Portuguese latin roots for the word mercy is formed from two Latin words, one is the ***misery*** (miseris), and the other is ***cordia*** (cordia) which means heart. Meaning to have an open heart to the one who is in misery, to the one which is not well, suffering or in need.
- Mercy means treating others as God treats us.
- The merciful has a positive attitude towards everyone, is kind, good, forgiving, loving, serving, smiling, even to those that do not correspond at the same way.
- The more specific aspect is generosity and service to the ones in need or suffering.

Pure in heart

Well-Blessed are the pure in heart... Mat 5:8

- What is to have a clean heart?
 - How can we have a clean heart if we have a corrupt and deceitful heart?
 - Only through Jesus, He is the only one who can change our hearts.
 - We must discard our heart's pretense, hypocrisy, deceit and lies.
 - If our heart is impure and dirty, can be cleansed. The condition is to walk in the light, live with honesty, transparency in confessing our sins, hiding nothing.

- And on this condition of transparency, sincerity and repentance the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. (1Joh 1:7-9)
- . Clean heart also means having pure desires.
 - Remember that the one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart.
 - Means rejecting in the heart every unholy desire.
 - Having the right intentions, holy motivations in everything what we doing.
- . Those will see God.

A paz

Blessed are the peacemakers... Mat 5:9

- . The disciples are men and women of peace.
- . It is hard to fight a peacemaker.
 - Someone offends him, and he forgives and love;
 - Other attacks him and he does not react;
 - Another talks angrily at him, and he responds with serenity, does not go into fighting or discussion,
 - The peacemaker forgives, yields, rather lose, pay evil with good.
- . Peacemaker is an instrument of peace among men, a channel of reconciliation among those who are enemies.
- . Peacemaker does not gossip, does not speak bad things of a brother to another, it creates no strife, on the contrary, seeks peace and unity among the brothers and sisters.
- . They are called children of God.

The joy of be pursued and revile for Christ

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you... Rejoice and be glad... Mat 5:10-12

- . Finally the last character quality that Jesus points out here is to have joy despite going through unjust sufferings, persecutions, insults and slander because of Jesus.
- . Our joy is not conditioned by favorable circumstances;
- . Not obstructed by unfavorable circumstances;

- . Our joy does not depend on what happens around us, but what happens within us.



That is Jesus!

d) Training ourselves accordingly to Christ

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age. (Tit 2:11-12)

To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and **to put on** the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph 4:22-24)

Put Off	Put On
<p>Sexual impurity</p> <p>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure... has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (Eph 5:3-5)</p>	<p>Purity (chastity or marriage)</p> <p>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (Heb 13:4).</p> <p>To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. (1 Co 7:8-9).</p>
<p>Greed (covetousness)</p> <p>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: ...covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col 3:5).</p>	<p>Generosity (give)</p> <p>'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Act 20:35)</p> <p>...You received without paying; give without pay. (Mat 10:8)</p>
<p>Anger, impatience, and aggressiveness</p> <p>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, ... (Eph 4:31).</p> <p>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath... (Col 3:8).</p> <p>Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself... (Psa 37:8)</p> <p>Now the works of the flesh are evident: ...enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions... (Gal 5:19-20)</p>	<p>Kindness, patience, respect, honor</p> <p>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (Col 3:12).</p> <p>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, ...peace, patience, kindness, ...self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)</p> <p>Love is patient, ...it is not irritable or resentful; ...bears all things, endures all things. (1 Co 13:4-7)</p> <p>See: 2Ti 3:14; 1Pe 2:17</p>
<p>Pride, self-sufficiency and rebellion</p> <p>...Never be wise in your own sight. (Rom 12:16).</p>	<p>Humbleness, meekness, submissiveness</p> <p>...and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart... (Mat</p>

<p>Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; (Pro 16:5)</p> <p>Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. (Pro 16:18)</p> <p>Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (Pro26:12).</p> <p>He who is often reprov'd, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing. (Pro 29:1).</p>	<p>11:29).</p> <p>...Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly... (Rom 12:16).</p> <p>...Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another... (1 Pe 5:5).</p> <p>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.(Eph 5:21).</p>
<p>Lie</p> <p>Therefore, having put away falsehood....(Eph 4:25).</p> <p>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices (Colossians 3:9).</p> <p>Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord... (Pro12:22).</p>	<p>Truth, honesty, integrity</p> <p>...let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor.... (Eph 4:25).</p> <p>...but those who act faithfully are his delight. (Proverbs 12:22).</p> <p>See: Heb 10:22; 1Th 4:6; Ps 15:2</p>
<p>Partiality</p> <p>You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. (Lev 19:15).</p>	<p>Impartiality</p> <p>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. (1Ti 5:21)</p>
<p>Corrupting Talking (insults, slander, gossip, dirty jokes, idle banter, profanity, complaints, grumbles, whining, etc.)</p> <p>Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths... (Eph 4:29).</p> <p>... no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place... (Eph 5:4).</p> <p>O Lord, who shall sojourn in your</p>	<p>Words that edify (thanksgiving, praise, prayers, teachings, songs, proclamations, etc. ...)</p> <p>...but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Eph 4:29).</p> <p>...but instead let there be thanksgiving. (Eph 5:4).</p> <p>addressing one another in</p>

<p>tent?... who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; (Psa 15:1,3)</p>	<p>psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:19-20).</p>
<p>Pessimism, incredulity</p> <p>...for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (Jas 1:6-8).</p> <p>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2Ti 1:7).</p>	<p>Faith, courage, firmness</p> <p>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting... (Jas 1:6).</p> <p>Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1Per 1:13)</p> <p>Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life... (1Ti 6:12).</p> <p>Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (Heb 2:1)</p> <p>View: Joshua 1:6-9, Ephesians 4:14</p>
<p>Addictions (drunkenness, gluttony)</p> <p>All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be dominated by anything. (1Co 6:12).</p>	<p>Self-control</p> <p>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; (Philippians 4:5).</p> <p>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Gal 5:16).</p> <p>See: 1Co 9:25-27; Eph 6:11</p>
<p>Revenge</p> <p>Repay no one evil for evil, ...never avenge yourselves... (Rom 12:17-19).</p> <p>Do not be overcome by evil,... (Rom 12:21).</p> <p>See that no one repays anyone evil for evil... (1Th 5:15).</p>	<p>Overcome evil with good</p> <p>To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink... (Rom 12:20)</p> <p>...but overcome evil with good. (Rom 12:21).</p> <p>...but always seek to do good to</p>

<p>...Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling... (1Pe 3:9).</p>	<p>one another and to everyone. (1Th 5:15).</p> <p>...but on the contrary, bless... (1Pe 3:9).</p>
<p>Irresponsibility, neglect</p> <p>Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys. (Pro 18:9).</p> <p>But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. (Mat 25:26-27).</p>	<p>Loyalty, diligence, responsibility</p> <p>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.(Rom 12:11).</p> <p>Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. (1Co 4:2).</p> <p>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' (Mat 25:23).</p> <p>He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? (1Ti 3:4-5).</p> <p>and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you (1Th 4:11).</p> <p>See: Pro 10:4; 13:4; 6:6-11; 2Th 3:7-12.</p>