

Six Great Characteristics of the Christian Life

Colossians 1:1-8

A. Service (1:1).

1. Who wrote this letter?
2. Who was his co-worker?
3. To whom was this letter written?
4. What did the writer see as his main service or ministry?
5. How certain was he of his assignment?
6. Has God called you to some area of service or ministry?
7. Is a Christian's service or ministry smaller or bigger than his vocation? (Remember that Paul was a tent-manufacturer by trade. Acts 18:3.)

B. Grace (1:2).

1. Paul wished grace upon his readers.
2. How does grace fit in with God's *kindness*? (Ephesians 2:7).
3. What does grace have to do with *faith*? (Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:8).
4. Is there a connection between grace and *gift*? (Romans 3:24 [NAS]; Eph. 2:8).
5. How does grace fit in with *working*? (Romans 4:4; Ephesians 2:9-10).
6. How does God's grace fit in with *truth*? (Colossians 1:6).

C. Peace (1:2).

1. Paul wished peace upon his readers.
2. What price had to be paid so we can have peace with God? (Colossians 1:20 - "through Him" = through Jesus.)
3. How do we receive peace with God? (Romans 5:1).
4. Who is the focus of faith and our peace? (Ephesians 2:14).

D. Faith (1:4).

1. Paul had heard about the faith of the Colossian Christians (1:4).
2. First, what was the object of the faith of the Colossians? (In whom did they believe?)
3. Faith is not an automatic thing. Faith is a response to something we hear. What is the trigger for a Christian's faith? (Romans 10:17).
4. How is what the Colossian Christians heard described in 1:5? In 1:6?

5. Why do some people choose to believe while others choose not to believe? (Ephesians 2:8-9).
6. Do you have faith in Jesus that has resulted in the salvation of your soul? (1 Peter 1:7-9).

E. Love (1:4).

1. Paul observed that these Colossian Christians had love for all of whom?
2. The word “saints” means “those who are set apart for God.” Notice a few of the many references to “the saints:” Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1.
3. Why is it so important for Christians to love one another? (1 John 4:20; John 13:34-35.)
4. Who is the one who gives Christians the power to love other Christians who may not be easy to love (Colossians 1:8)?
5. Do you love the saints?

F. Hope (1:5).

1. Where did the hope of the Colossians reside (1:5)?
2. What was it that sparked their hope (1:5-6)?
3. How does Peter describe our hope (1 Peter 1:3-4)?
4. Do you have “the hope laid up for you in the heavens?”
5. Of the three traits – faith, hope, and love, which is the greatest (1 Corinthians 13:13)?

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