

Belonging To and Becoming Like Christ 属于并越来越像基督

Compassionate— understanding, caring, humble, empathetic, etc.

有同情心 - 理解, 关怀 · 谦卑 · 善解人意 Mercy Ministries...

Holy— good, righteous, separate from evil, worship Him only!

圣洁 - 善良, 公义 · 脱离邪恶 · 只敬拜神! Church, fellowship...

Reliable— dependable, trustworthy, always keep your promises

可靠 - 靠得住, 值得信赖 · 始终信守诺言 Work, Parenting...

Intercessor— praying without ceasing, intimate with the Father

代祷者 - 不停地祷告, 与天父亲密无间 fasting, Bible, meditation

Servant-hearted— willing to do whatever it takes to get it done

仆人心肠 - 愿意为完成使命而付出一切 No task too low for you!

Truth in love— unconditional and sacrificial; believing for the best,
preaching the Gospel and making disciples of all nations

爱中的真理 - 无条件牺牲性的; 相信最好, 传福音及带门徒

Romans 8:29 gives us our goal in life: *“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them **to become like his Son**, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”* So this means that if the Lord were to give us our report card for character evaluation, the above traits would be a good place to start. Go through them and give yourself a grade to see how you’re doing 😊. How can you improve your grade? The questions below will guide you:

Questions to consider using the above acrostic:

- 1) In what way have you enjoyed being like Christ? How have you been successful? How has God used you in this way? Be specific. Be very thankful!
- 2) In what way have you disappointed yourself in not being like Christ the way you know you should? How have you blown it? Be specific. Be honest. Repent.
- 3) Are there other areas not listed above that you would like to share concerning how you have succeeded or temporarily failed? Read Prov 24:16 & **be hopeful!**
- 4) According to Col 3:1-17, how can you become more self-controlled in putting off the old way of life and putting on the new way? Be practical. Just do it!
- 5) Pray with each other for the Holy Spirit’s help in empowering you to keep doing what is right and stop doing what is wrong. See James 4:7,8 for help

Our Two Main Priorities in Life 我们生活中的两个侧重点

1. Our **Missional** Calling—**L.O.G.** on to God! Get onto His agenda!
 - 1) **L**ove the Lord God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mt 22:37-40)
 - 2) **O**bey His commandments, for example to love your neighbor. (Jn 14:15)
 - 3) **G**o into all the world and preach the Gospel/make disciples. (Mt 28:19,20)
2. Our **Occupational** Calling—**U.S.A.** Be faithful with what He has given you.
 - 1) **U**se your natural talents, (Mt 25:14-30)
 - 2) **S**piritual Gifts, (Ro 12:4-6a) (Can be missional as well)
 - 3) **A**cquired skills for the glory of God. (Col 3:23,24)

Note: A good example of this is Paul, an Apostle and a tentmaker. He had his priorities straight and his occupation helped to support his missionary work.

我们生活中的两个侧重点

1. 我们在宣教上的呼召—定睛于神! 按他的旨意行。
 - 1) 你要尽心、尽性、尽意爱主—你的神。(马太福音 22:37-40)
 - 2) 遵守他的命令。例如爱你的邻舍(约翰福音 14:15)
 - 3) 去全世界传扬福音 · 使万民作主的门徒(太 28:19,20)
2. 我们职业上的呼召—在他所赐的礼物上信实。
 - 1) 发挥你的天赋,(太 25:14-30)
 - 2) 属灵的恩赐,(罗马书 12:4-6a) (Ministry)
 - 3) 后天学会的技能 来荣耀神(歌罗西书3:23,24)

A successful Christian life is all about **belonging and becoming**. God desires everyone to be **saved, sanctified, and sent** to serve Him in the world He created. The problem is we get our priorities mixed up after we receive Christ (as well as before 😊--see the story of the rich man and Lazarus). Therefore, how can one keep one’s priorities in the correct order? The questions below will help:

- 1) Why is it that we have convinced ourselves that loving God and obeying Him are mandatory, but going—preaching and discipling are optional? See #1
- 2) What keeps you from being bolder in sharing your faith? Be Honest 😊!
- 3) Have you made an idol out of your occupational calling? Has it replaced your primary calling to love, obey, and go? In what areas do they overlap?
- 4) Do you feel satisfied with your choice of vocation? Why or why not? What keeps you from making a change, being content, or getting trained to improve?