

ESSENTIAL VIRTUES

		Loving God with My Whole Heart	Loving Neighbors as Myself
		THE GROUNDWORK FOR CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER (v. 5)	THE TRADEMARK OF CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER (v. 7)
ESSENTIAL VIRTUES		<p>Saving FAITH</p> <p>Being a “partaker of the divine nature” through the righteousness of Jesus Christ</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Pursuing the EXCELLENCE of Christlikeness</p> <p>Cultivating a God-mandated purpose to develop and display the excellencies (character) of Jesus Christ</p> <p>↓</p> <p>KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>Cultivating a God-taught understanding of the person, the work, and the ways of Jesus Christ</p>	<p>SELF-CONTROL</p> <p>Cultivating a God-empowered mastery of my internal desires</p> <p>↓</p> <p>ENDURANCE</p> <p>Cultivating a God-sustained faithfulness under external pressure</p> <p>↓</p> <p>GODLINESS</p> <p>Cultivating a God-honoring devotion to Jesus Christ that promotes righteousness and opposes evil</p>
		<p>BROTHERLY KINDNESS</p> <p>Cultivating a God-engendered affection for and service to those in the “household of faith”</p> <p>↓</p> <p>LOVE</p> <p>Cultivating a God-imitating mindset that scripturally and sacrificially meets the spiritual needs of others</p>	
CORE VALUES		<p>COMMITMENT to Christ</p> <p>These traits produce a whole-hearted disciple who chooses the appeals and ideals of Christ and rejects the appeals and ideals of the world.</p>	<p>COURAGE for Christ</p> <p>These traits produce a brave-hearted disciple who advances Christ and His ways and opposes evil in himself and others regardless of risk to himself.</p>
		<p>COMPASSION like Christ</p> <p>These traits produce a tender-hearted disciple-maker who seeks the lost and who by his example and effort disciplines others to live a Christ-centered life.</p>	

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Book: 2 Peter
Series: True Faith vs. False Teaching: Add To Your Faith, Knowledge
Lesson 6: Our Productive Faith, Part 4 (The Trademark of Christlike Character)
Text: 2 Peter 1:7
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INTRODUCTION

True faith is distinguishable from false teaching, not only in its precepts, but also in its product. This is fundamentally what Peter is seeking to demonstrate in his second epistle. He never actually delineates what is the error of these false teachers, but he does contrast their lifestyle with the production of true faith.

- While true faith produces _____, false teaching rejects Christ’s Lordship (2:1, 10).
- While true faith produces _____, false teaching knows only spiritual ignorance and deception (2:1, 3, 12-13).
- While true faith produces _____, false teaching gives way to unabated self-indulgence (2:2, 13-15, 18-19).
- While true faith produces _____, false teaching undermines perseverance and fails in the face of hardship (2:20-22).
- While true faith produces _____, false teaching defies man and generates ungodliness in others (2:1, 14, 18).

The choices, pursuits, lifestyle, and worldview of false teachers will shout a rejection of Christ while their teaching may only carefully and confusingly whisper.

In 2 Peter 1:7, Peter continues this contrast and juxtaposes the trademark of these two systems.

- While true faith produces _____, false teaching is known for its selfishness, arrogance, greed, and hypocrisy (2:3, 10-12, 15, 19).
- While true faith produces _____, false teaching is reputed for its destruction of peoples' lives (2:3, 14, 18).

Throughout Scripture, there is one characteristic that is “[biblically] registered and established by use” as representing the Creator, Savior King—that is, love.

“By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).

A God-empowered, others-focused love glorifies the reputation of the God who is love (1 John 4:8-21). “Men will never believe that God is love unless they see it in the lives of His professed followers.” This is the climax and trademark of faith’s excellence—that it loves!

THE TRADEMARK OF CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER (v. 7)

Faith’s trademark of love manifests itself in two ways:

- *Brotherly kindness* – “cultivating a God-engendered _____ for and service to those in the ‘household of faith’”
- *Love [proper]* – “cultivating a God-imitating mindset that _____ and _____ meets the spiritual needs of others”

1. _____

a. **Romans 12:10**

b. **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**

c. **Hebrews 13:1**

c. **1 Peter 1:22**

d. **1 Peter 3:8**

2. _____

a. *Whereas brotherly kindness might be considered more of a spirit, love is more of a _____.*

b. *Whereas brotherly kindness focuses on those inside the body of Christ, love extends to those _____ the body of Christ.*

CONCLUSION

“Paul said love is the goal of Christian instruction (1 Tim 1:5). It is the most excellent way (1 Cor 12:31–13:13), the virtue that sums up all other virtues (Col 3:14).” Indeed, God is love, and His people are loving. This is the proof of a Christ-identified life, the trademark of Christlike character.