

28_e

Additional virtues of Christ

Objective

The confirmands would like to become more and more like Jesus Christ so that the fruit of the Holy Spirit becomes evident.

Contents

Additional virtues of Christ include obedience, humility, patience, loyalty, and compassion.

Hint

If this has not already been done the confirmands are to relate the experiences of faith which they recorded as homework following lesson 28a.

1 Lead-in

Tell

The rich young man

A young man once came to the Lord Jesus and asked Him what he would have to do to obtain eternal life. First the Lord Jesus advised him to keep the commandments. The young man replied, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" The Lord Jesus then told him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven: and come, follow Me." The young man sadly left the Lord Jesus because he was very rich (cf. Matthew 19: 16–22).

Ask

What hindered the rich young man from following the Lord Jesus?

Listen to answers and supplement

In accordance with Jesus Christ's advice to be perfect the young man would have had to sell his possessions, give to the poor, and follow the Lord Jesus. Perhaps it was impossible for the young man to be so **compassionate**. We can also imagine that he did not want to subordinate himself to Jesus Christ's will and did not what to **obey** Him. Perhaps he considered himself too important to **humbly** follow Jesus Christ or he did not have the **patience** required to follow.

In the sections which follow some of Christ's virtues are discussed.

2 Obedience

A student tells (homework)

One day Jesus stood on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Many people pressed in on Him because they wanted to listen to Him. The Lord Jesus then noticed two boats at the water's edge. He stepped into Simon Peter's boat and asked him to go out into the water a little so that from there He could teach the people.



Additional virtues of Christ

28_e

Peter's catch of fish

When Jesus had finished speaking He said to Simon Peter, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." They caught so many fish that their nets began to tear and they had to call other fishermen to help them. When Simon Peter realised this he was awestruck and fell to his knees before the Lord Jesus. Jesus however, said to him, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." Simon Peter, James, and John then left their boats and followed Jesus Christ (cf. Luke 5: 1–11).

Summarise

Peter obeyed Jesus Christ.

Elaborate

We obey God because we trust Him

To be obedient means **to listen to someone and act in accordance with his or her intentions**. We can be obedient for various reasons. We can obey someone because we are afraid of him or her or feel obligated. We can however, also obey someone because we love and we trust him or her. For us as God's children being obedient means that we align our will with God's will. We obey Him because we love Him and trust Him. To obey God means to listen to the word of His servants (e.g. our Priest). In the letter to the Hebrews it says, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive" (Hebrews 13: 17). When we follow their advice we will be blessed!

3 Humility

A student tells (homework)

The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector

Two people once went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee the other a tax collector. The Pharisee prayed, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector." On the other hand the tax collector hardly dared to enter the temple. He cast down his eyes and prayed, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" With this story the Lord Jesus addressed those who considered themselves devout and consequently felt they could despise others. He said that the tax collector went home justified "for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (cf. Luke 18: 9–14).

Summarise

The tax collector realised that he was a sinner. He was humble, recognised his mistakes, and regretted them. He was able to go home justified.

Elaborate

Honouring God and esteeming others better than ourselves

To be humble means to **be conscious of God's greatness and omnipotence as well as our own imperfection and vanity**, and to conduct ourselves accordingly. We know that we are sinners who need God's grace. Humility with respect to others is also part of humility before God. Apostle Paul writes: "In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2: 3). On the other hand those who are arrogant consider themselves better than they actually are.

God grants grace to those who are humble. Humility will also help make it possible for us to participate in the marriage of the Lamb. Apostle Paul wrote: "Be clothed with humility for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5: 5–6).





28^e

Additional virtues of Christ

4 Loyalty and faithfulness

A student tells (homework)

Ruth stays with Naomi and finds a new home in Israel

When there was a famine in Judah Elimelech moved to Moab together with his wife Naomi and his sons. There his sons married. After Elimelech and his sons had died Naomi wanted to return to her homeland. Her daughters-in-law wanted to accompany her on her way. Naomi encouraged them to remain in Moab. One of them did so, but Ruth said, "Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me" (cf. Ruth 1: 1–17).

In the land of Judah, Ruth found a new home. There she became acquainted with her future husband, Boaz. King David is one of her descendants (cf. Ruth 2: 2–4; 4: 13–22).

Summarise

Through her mother-in-law and her husband, Ruth came to know the God of Israel, and remained faithful to Him. This loyalty was richly rewarded.

Elaborate

Our loyalty to God and the bridegroom of our soul lead us to the marriage of the Lamb

To be loyal means **to remain with the Lord and to sincerely strive to keep what we have promised by making a supreme effort**. We prove our loyalty by how we keep that which God has entrusted to us as well as by clinging to His promises. "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16: 10).

In our confirmation vow we pledge our loyalty to the triune God for our entire life.

5 Patience

A student tells (homework)

Abraham is promised a son

God said to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing" (Genesis 12: 1–2). Abram obeyed God, believed Him, and came to Canaan. However, the second part of God's promise had not yet been fulfilled. Abram was already 75 years old. He and his wife Sarai still had no children. God appeared to Abram and said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Abram replied, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" God, however, said, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir. Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. So shall your descendants be." Abram believed the Lord (Genesis 15: 1–6). After this encounter several more years passed. Abram was almost 100 years old; his wife Sarai was now about 90. God appeared to him and said, "No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations ... As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her." Abraham laughed and thought to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"





Additional virtues of Christ

28_e

Later God appeared to him again and promised, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” A year later the great miracle took place: Abraham and Sarah had a son. They named the child ‘Isaac’ as God had instructed them (cf. Genesis 15–18 and 21).

Summarise

Abraham believed God’s promises. His patience while waiting was richly rewarded.

Elaborate

We are patient because we know: things will not remain as they are

On the one hand patience refers to **God’s mercy and longsuffering towards us**. For human beings on the other hand to be patient means **to endure and to bear difficulties as well as to persevere in waiting for something**, such as the fulfilment of a promise. Patience does not refer to meekly letting everything come over us. Rather it means to endure difficulties and trials while trusting in God and His help. Circumstances such as illness, an accident, or poverty can arise in a person’s life. Many people then speak of a stroke of fate. They become annoyed, almost lose faith, or even quarrel with God. They think God should intervene immediately to change these circumstances. However, such trials can also be accepted quietly and humbly. They can be endured patiently.

When we patiently endure trials, with confidence in our heavenly Father and waiting patiently for the fulfilment of His promises, we can be certain that when we are in glory He will grant us more than we can imagine. Apostle Paul’s counsel also applies to us: “... rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer” (Romans 12: 12).

Our Lord Jesus is coming

We patiently wait for the Lord Jesus. Since we do not know the day nor the hour, it is not easy to wait patiently. However, we know: He will return!

Patience with our fellow human beings

We also want to be patient with our fellow human beings because we too are glad when they are patient with us.

6 Compassion

A student tells (homework)

The good Samaritan

There once was a man who went from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him, beat him, and left him lying half dead beside the road. Later a priest came by. When he saw the man lying there he passed by. A Levite also saw the beaten man but he too passed by. Then a Samaritan came to the same spot and took pity on the man. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds. He put him on his donkey and took him to an inn where he took care of him. Before continuing on his journey the next day the Samaritan gave the innkeeper two pieces of silver and said to him, “Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you” (cf. Luke 10: 30–37).

Elaborate

On the one hand compassion describes **God’s love, kindness, and grace which he grants to human beings**. On the other hand we are compassionate when our neighbour’s concerns move us and out of love we endeavour to do everything possible to help.





28^e

Additional virtues of Christ

Workbook exercise

The confirmands now do the exercise in their workbook. Afterwards the answers are discussed. The correct answers are (in the following order): loyalty, love, compassion, obedience, humility, and patience.

The main points

I also want to ...

...exhibit the virtues of Christ!

Homework

The confirmands are to again concern themselves with the confirmation vow.

Hint

For lesson 29 the confirmands' parents are invited.

