

# THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

## Cultivating Character – Part 8

### August 31, 2014

As a follower of Jesus, what's my ultimate goal in life?

My ultimate goal is to be **LIKE** Jesus!

Jesus, The Good Shepherd, Tells Us...

- He's not a **THIEF** but a **GIVER**.

**John 10:10-11a (NLT)** "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich satisfying life. <sup>11</sup>I am the Good Shepherd."

**Revelation 3:20a (NIV)** "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door I will come in..."

- He's not a **HIREN HAND** but an **OWNER** Shepherd.

**John 10:11-13 (NLT)** "The Good Shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep."

- He's a Shepherd who **KNOWS** us by name.

**John 10:14-15 (NLT)** "I am the Good Shepherd; I know My own sheep, and they know Me, <sup>15</sup>just as My Father knows Me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice My life for the sheep."

The Character Of Jesus Implies Real Benefits For Us...

1. We can be **SONS** and **DAUGHTERS**,

not **SLAVES**.

**Romans 8:14-15 (NIV)** "For those who are led by the Spirit of

God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup>The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' "

2. We can have God as our **ADOPTIVE** Father.

**Ephesians 1:4-5a (NLT)** "Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. <sup>5</sup>God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ."

3. We can have **CONFIDENCE** in the Spirit.

**Romans 8:16 (NIV)** "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

4. We can be **CO-HEIRS** with Christ.

**Romans 8:17 (NIV)** "Now if we are children, then we are heirs -- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory."

**Matthew 12:50 (NIV)** "Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother, and sister, and mother."

What does it take to do the will of the Father?

It takes **CHARACTER** to do God's will!

**Romans 8:29 (NIV)** "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

**Galatians 5:22-23a (NLT)** "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control."

**Colossians 3:4 (NIV)** "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."