



PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S RETURN

- Being aware of prophetic signs in God's word
- Living a life of Holiness
- Living a life separated from the world
- Encouraging one another with the wonderful Hope of His soon return
- Helping others prepare to meet the Lord
- Praying Jesus will count you worthy to escape all that is about to take place.

(v. 25)...as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (v. 26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the **washing of water by the word**, (v. 27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish**"
 (Ephesians 5:25-27) (The Bride of Christ is **Sanctified** by the **Word**) + **Also See: II Peter 1:5-8**)

Keep Gods Word

"Because thou hast **kept the word** of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." (Revelation 3:10)

Walk In Light

"But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son, purifies us from all sin." (I John 1:7)

Please God

"...For before he (Enoch) was taken [Raptured], he was commended as one who **pleased God**" (Heb 11:5)

Witness

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, **Behold, The Lord Cometh** with ten thousands of his saints." (Jude 14).

Persevere

"Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 9:62) "Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." (James 4:4)

Be Humble

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)

Be Holy

"**Make every effort** to live in peace with all men and to **be holy**; without holiness no one will see the Lord."
 (Hebrews 12:14)

Be Blameless

"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort** to be found **spotless, blameless and at peace** with him." (II Peter 3:14)

Be Watchful

"But our citizenship is in heaven & we **eagerly await** a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil.3:20)
 "Looking for the Blessed Hope..." (Titus 2:13) "**Be always on the Watch...**" (Luke 21:36)
 "...and unto them that **look for Him** shall he appear the second time..." (Hebrews 9:28)
 "Henceforth there is laid for me a **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love his appearing**" (II Timothy 4:8)

Be Prayerful

"Watch, ye therefore, and **pray always** that ye **may be accounted worthy** to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36)

Characteristics of [Philadelphia Christian](#) by Lyn Mize

(From: www.ffruits.org)

“The Philadelphia Christian is the one who will be taken in the Firstfruits Rapture. I have had many questions from other Christians asking me to identify the characteristics of a Philadelphia Christian. The primary answer is that the Philadelphia Christian bears the Fruit of the Spirit, which is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**. The Philadelphia Christian bears this fruit because he is **filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit**. He is filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit because he reads his Bible and allows the Word of God to be firmly implanted in his being. The Bible describes this as receiving with meekness the engrafted Word shown in the following as necessary for saving the soul.

(James 1:21 KJV) “*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.***”

The soul is the kind of person each of us is in living our life. The Christian who bears the Fruit of the Spirit has certain traits of character. If a Christian has the following traits, then he could be described as a Philadelphia Christian:

Trustworthy

trust-wor-thy (tr³st¹ w¹ur¹ th¹) *adj.* **trust-wor-thi-er, trust-wor-thi-est.** Warranting trust; reliable. See Synonyms at **reliable**. --**trust¹wor¹thi¹ly** *adv.* --**trust¹wor¹thi¹ness** *n.*

trust (tr³st) *n.* **1.** Firm reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person or thing

re-li-a-ble (r¹-l¹ ° "...-b...l) *adj.* Capable of being relied on; dependable: *a reliable assistant; a reliable car.* --**re-li¹a-bil¹i-ty** or **re-li¹a-ble-ness** *n.* --**re-li¹a-bly** *adv.*

The Philadelphia Christian is trustworthy. This means that God and his fellow Christians can depend upon him to do that which is right. The Philadelphia Christian can be relied upon to do that which has been entrusted to him. The trustworthy person is faithful to his calling. He does not depart from his calling in times of trouble, persecution and hardship. He can be trusted in his obedience to the Word of God.

The Philadelphia Christian is trustworthy because he has entrusted his spiritual well-being to Jesus Christ. This is one of the definitions of the word believe:

4100 pisteuo (pist-yoo'-o);

from 4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ):

KJV-- believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

This belief is more than simply believing in the atonement of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is believing the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and the study and engrafting of God's Word into the life of this person. Thus, the Philadelphia Christian is the Christian who believes, studies and applies the Word of God to his life. This is much more than simply believing in the atonement of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary.

Loyal

loy-al (loi¹ ° "...l) *adj.* **1.** Steadfast in allegiance to one's homeland, government, or sovereign. **2.** Faithful to a person, an ideal, a custom, a cause, or a duty. **3.** Of, relating to, or marked by loyalty. See also: **faithful**.

The Philadelphia Christian is loyal to his Sovereign God, the Word of God, and his duty as a Christian in studying the Bible and applying it to his life. The Christian who states that he is loyal to God, and never opens his service and duty manual—the Bible—is a liar. The Philadelphia Christian is steadfast in his allegiance to God. He is unwavering in his duty in spite of hardship and persecution that comes from his loyalty in teaching and abiding by the precepts in the Word of God.

Helpful

help-ful (hɪlpˈfʊl) *adj.* Providing assistance; useful. **--help-ful-ly** *adv.* **help-ful-ness** *n.*

The Philadelphia Christian provides assistance to those in need, and he is a useful member in society. He comes to the assistance of those who need help. He is a good worker on his job, since everything that he does is performed as if he were doing it for his Lord and Master.

The Christian who has the spiritual gift of serving excels in this trait, but all Philadelphia Christians should have this trait in varying degrees.

Friendly

friend-ly (frɪndˈli) *adj.* **friend-li-er, friend-li-est.** **1.** Of, relating to, or befitting a friend: *friendly advice.* **--friend-ly** *adv.* **1.** In the manner of a friend; amicably. **--friend-ly** *n., pl.*

The Philadelphia Christian is friendly to his brethren, and even those who persecute him, speak evil of him or belittle him. This is very difficult to do, and the only means of doing this is to be filled with the Holy Spirit to the extent that agape flows through the Philadelphia Christian to those who persecute and spitefully use him. Agape is Christian love that comes from God through the Christian who is spirit-filled. The Christian who is not filled with the Holy Spirit cannot manifest agape. He may pretend to have this love, but it is not real and will be revealed to be false when tested. I have had fellow Christians feign agape towards me, until I stated something with which they disagreed, and then their true nature of malice and spitefulness was manifested. The Philadelphia Christian is able to crucify the old nature with its malice and spitefulness, and allow agape to flow through him. The Christian who is unable to control malice and spitefulness out of his old flesh nature is not manifesting self-control, which is a Fruit of the Spirit.

Courteous

cour-te-ous (kʊrˈtɪʊs) *adj.* Characterized by gracious consideration toward others. See Synonyms at **polite.** [Middle English *corteis*, courtly, from Old French, from *cort*, court. See COURT.] **--cour-te-ous-ly** *adv.* **--cour-te-ous-ness** *n.*

The Philadelphia Christian is courteous towards others. He is graciously considerate of the feelings of others. He does not fly off the handle and verbally abuse others. He does not hurt the feelings of others through his prideful and arrogant actions. He is polite & tactful in his dealings with others, and he shows good manners.

It is the old flesh nature that gets angry simply because others disagree on doctrinal issues. All of us are in error on some doctrinal issues, so we must allow ourselves to be open and teachable. The Philadelphia Christian is very much aware that he can be in error, so he remains courteous when others are rude and impolite.

It is very difficult to disagree with some without appearing rude and offensive, as the egos of many Christians consider any disagreement as rude and offensive. These Christians will insert attitudes between the lines in written communications that may not have been intended by the writer. Any disagreement may appear as harsh and rude regardless of the words that are used.

Kind

kind¹ (kɪnd) *adj.* **kind-er, kind-est.** **1.** Of a friendly, generous, or warm-hearted nature. **2.** Showing sympathy or understanding; charitable: *a kind word.* **3.** Humane; considerate: *kind to animals.* **4.** Forbearing; tolerant: *Our neighbor was very kind about the window we broke.* **5.** Generous; liberal: *kind words of praise.* **6.** Agreeable; beneficial: *a dry climate kind to asthmatics.* [Middle English, natural, kind, from Old English *gecynde*, natural. See **gen...-** below.]

The Philadelphia Christian is generous, warm-hearted, charitable, and has legitimate sympathy or understanding for the feelings of others. He is tolerant and patient in the face of provocation from others. He

is not easily provoked. He is humane and considerate towards animals. He is generous and liberal in sharing his possessions with others. He really cares about other people and animals.

Obedient

o-be-di-ent (½-bɪˈdɪ-...nt) *adj.* Dutifully complying with the commands, orders, or instructions of one in authority. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *oboediōns*, oboedient-, present participle of *oboedōre*, to obey. See OBEY.] **--o-be-di-ent-ly** *adv.*

SYNONYMS: *obedient, biddable, compliant, acquiescent, submissive, docile, amenable, tractable.*

These adjectives mean carrying or willing to carry out the orders, requests, or wishes of another.

Obedient implies acceptance of and submission to authority: an obedient pupil; an obedient soldier.

“The obedient colonies in this scheme are heavily taxed; the refractory remain unburdened” (Edmund Burke). One who is *biddable* follows directions or obeys commands: *“A more gentle and biddable invalid . . . can hardly be conceived”* (Henry Kingsley). **Compliant and acquiescent suggest a disposition to yield to authority meekly and without protest: children compliant with the parental will; too acquiescent to challenge the propriety of offering a bribe. Submissive** implies an inclination or a willingness to submit without resistance and sometimes with deference to the control of another:

The Philadelphia Christian is obedient to God and those whom God has placed in authority over him. The emboldened phrases under synonyms above are the characteristics of the Philadelphia Christian. He is not rebellious of the authorities that God has placed above him. This includes the wife who is to be obedient to her husband and the child who is to be obedient to the parent. The Philadelphia Christian will be the obedient wife, the obedient child, and the obedient employee. He will be obedient to the laws of man and will be seen as a law-abiding citizen. The only time a Philadelphia Christian would rebel against the authorities above him would be when the orders go against the laws of God. Even then, the refusal to obey would be explained in a courteous and kind manner. For example, the Christian who has been told to tell a lie by his supervisor should respectfully decline to do so with the explanation that it is against God’s law to lie. In most cases, the declination to lie would gain respect from the supervisor. Integrity is something that is admired by everyone—even those who do not have it themselves.

Cheerful

cheer-ful (chîrˈfʌl) *adj.* **1.** Being in good spirits; merry. See Synonyms at **glad**¹. **2.** Promoting a feeling of cheer; pleasant: *a cozy, cheerful room.* **3.** Reflecting willingness or good humor: *cheerful labor.* **--cheer-ful-ly** *adv.* **--cheer-ful-ness** *n.*

The Philadelphia Christian is cheerful—even in the face of adversity. He has the peace of God as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, and he exhibits the joy and pleasure of knowing that he belongs to God. He knows that his future is bright, in spite of present circumstances. The Philadelphia Christian does not depend on his present circumstances for his cheerful disposition. He depends upon the inner peace that comes from God. He knows that all things work together for his good, since he loves the Lord with all of his heart, mind and soul. The threat of death does not disturb the inner peace of the Philadelphia Christian, for he knows that when he comes to be absent from the body, he will be present with Christ.

Thrifty

thrift-y (thrɪˈfɪ) *adj.* **trift-i-er, trift-i-est.** **1.** Practicing or marked by the practice of thrift; wisely economical. See Synonyms at **sparing**. **2.** Industrious and thriving; prosperous. **3.** Growing vigorously; thriving, as a plant. **--thrift-i-ly** *adv.* **--thrift-i-ness** *n.*

The Philadelphia Christian is thrifty. He is wisely economical and is not wasteful. He is industrious in his work, and he spends his money wisely. This does not mean that he is stingy, miserly, avaricious, penurious or niggardly. He is not grudging or petty in giving or spending, and he does not live meagerly in order to hoard money. He is not greedy or immoderately desirous of wealth. He does not spend his money recklessly and wastefully, and he is not extravagant in spending. He pays his bills and he renders unto God the

firstfruits of his labors, which is the tithe of his income. He is a cheerful giver to the Lord's work. Thrift and generosity are perfectly compatible with each other.

Thrift is not the same as greed. Some may see themselves as being thrifty, when they are actually being greedy. I have seen firsthand the greed of corporate officers, who withhold the wages of the laborer, yet pay themselves very large salaries and bonuses, and then attempt to justify their actions. The following Scripture is a prophecy about these rich men, and what is going to happen to them and their wealth at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Their hoards of wealth will actually be a witness against them when they have to account for their lives. These rich men are Christians. The words "rotted", moth-eaten, and "corroded" refer to wealth that is simply laid in store and unused.

(James 5:1-5 NIV) **Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.** {2} Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. {3} Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. {4} **Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.** {5} **You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves** in the day of slaughter.

Brave

brave (br³v) *adj.* **brav-er, brav-est.** **1.** Possessing or displaying courage; valiant. The Philadelphia Christian is brave. He possesses courage, boldness and valor. This is not the showy, pretentious bravery known as bravado. Bravado is a pretense of courage and a false show of bravery. Bravado is a disposition toward showy defiance or false expressions of courage. True bravery is coupled with humility, meekness, and patience, but it is not timidity. The Philadelphia Christian is humble, meek, and patient at the same time that he is bold, courageous and valiant. He is not marked by bravado or pretentious displays of courage designed to impress others. The Philadelphia Christian is the one who lays his life on the line to save another, and is embarrassed by the attention that he gets for doing so.

Clean

clean (kl¹n) *adj.* **clean-er, clean-est.** **1.** Free from dirt, stain, or impurities; unsoiled. **2.a.** Free from foreign matter or pollution; unadulterated: *clean air; clean drinking water.***10.a.** Morally pure; virtuous: *led a clean life.* **b.** Having no marks of discredit or offense.... **11.** Fit for all readers, listeners, or audiences; not ribald or obscene: *a clean joke.* **12.** Honest or fair: *a clean fighter; a clean competition.* **13.** Slang. **a.** Not carrying concealed weapons or drugs. **b.** Free from narcotics addiction. **c.** Innocent of a suspected crime. **--clean** *adv.* **cleaner, cleanest.** **1.** So as to be unsoiled: *wash the dishes clean.* **2.** In a fair manner: *played the game clean.* **4.** To remove the contents from; empty: *cleaned my plate.* Slang. **To eliminate or discard what is undesirable:** *The scandal forced the company to clean house.* [Middle English *clene*, from Old English *clǣne*.] **--clean^a-ble** *adj.* **--cleanⁿ-ness** *n.* **SYNONYMS:** *clean, antiseptic, cleanly, immaculate, spotless.* The central meaning shared by these adjectives is "free from dirt": *clean clothing; antiseptic surgical instruments; cats, cleanly animals; an immaculate tablecloth; spotless gloves.* **ANTONYMS:** dirty.

The Philadelphia Christian is clean. He fits several of the definitions in the American Heritage Dictionary shown above. He is free from the stain of sin, & he lives his life free of drugs & crime. He is not only clean on the inside, but he keeps himself clean on the outside. The Old Testament priests were constantly washing their hands & feet on the outside as a demonstration of cleanliness on the inside. It is possible for a Christian to be clean on the outside & be dirty on the inside, but a Christian who is clean on the inside will eventually come to be clean on the outside. Inner cleansing will always eventually work its way to the outside.

Reverent

rev-er-ent (r¹v¹...r-...nt) *adj.* Marked by, feeling, or expressing reverence. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *rever¹ns*, reverent-, present participle of *rever¹r^o*, to revere. See REVERE¹.] **--rev¹-er-ent-ly** *adv.*

rev-er-ence (rɪvˈɛr-ɛns) *n.* **1.** A feeling of profound awe and respect and often love; veneration. See Synonyms at **honor**. **2.** An act showing respect, especially a bow or curtsy. **3.** The state of being revered. **4. Reverence.** Used as a form of address for certain members of the Christian clergy: *Your Reverence*. --**rev-er-ence** *tr.v.* **rev-er-enced, rev-er-enc-ing, rev-er-enc-es.** To consider or treat with profound awe and respect; venerate. --**revˈer-enc-er** *n.*

The Philadelphia Christian is reverent toward God. He has profound awe, respect, love, and veneration toward God. It is because of this reverence that the Philadelphia Christian does not take the Lord's name in vain. He does not use filthy language that would dishonor God. Most people with even a little character do not use filthy language in the presence of ladies and children, but they do not hesitate to use it in the presence of God. Since the Philadelphia Christian lives his life abiding in the presence of God, he does not use filthy language, tell filthy jokes, or perform any actions that are irreverent towards God. As soon as the Philadelphia Christian does commit an act that is offensive to God, he seeks cleansing and forgiveness for that act. The Christian who lives his life with the knowledge that he is in the abiding presence of God lives a life that is reverent toward God. The Philadelphia Christian not only talks the talk of the Christian life, but he walks the walk of the Christian life.

Conclusion

If a Christian desires to know if he is a Philadelphia Christian, he can judge himself in accordance with the above twelve traits or characteristics to determine if he is measuring up to God's standards. The Christian whose life is characterized by the above twelve traits will carry these traits into heaven with him, and he will be rewarded with a position of honor in the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ."

In addition to the 12 characteristics outlined above by Lyn Mize, the Philadelphia Christian will avoid the type of behavior found in: I Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-20, Ephesians 5:3-6, or Colossians 3:5-10. Whenever the Philadelphia Christian finds themselves committing any of these sins or any other sins, the Holy Spirit will quickly prompt them to repent and ask for immediate forgiveness: "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (I John 1:9).

The Philadelphia Christian has the Blessed Hope in his heart and wants to be ready when the Lord returns: "*Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ***" (Titus 2:12-13)
"*And every man that hath **this hope** in him **purifieth himself**, even as he is pure.*" (I John 3:3)

The Philadelphia Christian is the mature Christian seen running for the "**Prize**" of the **High Calling** that even the Apostle Paul was concerned he might not obtain:

²⁴*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.*** ²⁵*Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a **crown** that will last forever.* ²⁶*Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.* ²⁷*No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others; **I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.***"
(I Corinthians 9:24-27)

¹³*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the **prize** of the **high calling** of God in Christ Jesus."*

¹⁵*All of us who are **mature** should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you."* (Philippians 3:13-15)

Finally, the Philadelphia Christian longs to be with her Bridegroom and is actively preparing for her wedding day by being **filled** with the Holy Spirit who directs & empowers her activities as she desires to please Him.

*"And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come**. And let him that heareth say, **Come**"* (Revelation 22:17)