

GOODNESS--The goodness of the Christian is not merely the ability to perform deeds which all men call good, but the inability not to do them. The good deed done for the other comes not as a means of proving that we are good but because we are good. We have been filled with a goodness which is not our own, and this overflows upon contact. Have you been granted the gift that is taking you on to perfection?

FIDELITY--The Christian is steadfast but not with a permanence and strength of his own. He finds himself unaccountably firm in situations where he would expect any man to fail. Do you have to struggle to be faithful?

GENTLENESS--Because roughness is almost always a symptom of the human predicament--either directly or as an attempt to cover up whatever it is that's eating us--the man freed from the human predicament is gentle. Nothing is eating at his insides so he does not have to strike back. Do you find that you are naturally gentle or do you have to struggle with your temper?

SELF-CONTROL--The man dominated by the human predicament in trying to control himself discovers that the harder he tries, the worse things become, the more clearly he sees his bondage. But the Christian has been freed from such strivings and is able to live calmly without distorted or exaggerated reactions. He has a more perfect union between his will and his actions. He is not a victim of his temper. Are you able to do what you really want to do with ease?



*Little Prairie Methodist Church  
James Park, Minister*

LENTEN SERVICE OF SELF-EXAMINATION

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN "Now, on Land and Sea Descending"

45

OFFERING

MEDITATION "Are you a Christian?"

HYMN "There is a Green Hill Far Away"

135

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

MEDITATION

I. Common Misunderstandings of Christianity

A. Moralism

Mark 10:17-27

B. Following the Teachings of Jesus

Matthew 5 & 6, selections

C. Belief in Historical Facts or Doctrinal Affirmations

Apostles' Creed

II. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-25

LOVE (I Corinthians 13)--Love is an overflowing of concern for others--especially those who cannot return our love. Love is self-sacrificial. Are you self- or family-centered? Are the primary motives which guide your life aimed at pleasing yourself and those whose pleasure will please you?

JOY--The Christian joy that comes only from the Holy Spirit is not a transitory pleasure or happiness of the passing moment, but an underlying condition of our being which is with us all the time--through pain and suffering as well as through better times. At the bottom of the pit of your depression, do you find a joy which is not of your own creation?

PEACE--The peace of the Christian is not the peace of unconsciousness, which can be brought by drugs or alcohol or just sleeping your life away, but a peace which pervades our highest states of consciousness. In those moments when you are most thoroughly and honestly yourself, having all the parts of your being functioning, are you at peace?

PATIENCE--The Christian is patient because of his outgoing love and sustaining peace. He can bear with men who have not yet received these gifts and work tirelessly with them even though they show no sign of response. He has the calmness of mind to wait silently because he knows that the important things in human life are a long time in forming. Have you received the gift of the ability to wait patiently or do you become irritated when things are not going your way or when you have nothing to keep busy with?

KINDNESS--The Christian love with which we are filled prevents us from being unkind even in circumstances where we would otherwise be tempted. The Christian is kind without calculation or effort because of the fulness of love within him which bursts forth at every turning. Do you have to force yourself to be kind?

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