

**Characteristics of Faithful Brethren**  
**Colossians 1**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to examine what the Bible says are characteristics of faithful brethren.

- Intro:
1. There are certain qualities & characteristics of faithful Christians.
  2. Simply put faithful Christians do these things, those who are not, do not do these things.
  3. You ever heard of a Christian doing something that you that was od or not right for someone to do if they proclaim to be a Christian? What do faithful Christians do? What are faithful brethren?
1. They were Saints (**Col 1:2**)
    - a. Saints literally means “pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, conccrated”
    - b. It makes sense that this is the definition of the word, since this is so often applied to faithful followers.
  2. They had a quest for Knowledge (**Col 1:9**)
    - a. Paul prayed for their knowledge in Christ to grow, their knowledge and their understanding.
    - b. Brethren should have that same desire for themselves as well.
  3. They walk worthy of the Lord (**Col 1:10**)
    - a. Please the Lord
      1. Enoch pleased God (**Heb 11:5**)
      2. We are to walk in Christ (**Col 2:6**)
    - b. Bear fruit
      1. We are to work good works
  4. They are Steadfast (**Col 1:11**)
    - a. They have a knowledge of God that results in patience & longsuffering.
    - b. Patience is steadfastness
      1. Call to steadfastness (**Col 1:23; 2:7**)
      2. Challenge of false teaching (**Col 2:4-5**)
    - c. Suffer with Joy
      1. Christians accept and endure hardships.
  5. They are Thankful
    - a. Paul gave Thanks (**Col 1:3**)
    - b. Give thanks unto the Father (**Col 1:12**)
    - c. Be thankful (**Col 3:15**)
    - d. Give thanks in prayer (**Col 4:2**).

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. We need to examine ourselves.
  1. We need a reality check to determine what kind of brother/sister in Christ we are.
  2. We are warned that we can become “disqualified” (**2 Cor 13:5c**)
- B. We are told to test ourselves. (**2 Cor 13:5a**)
  1. This means looking at what God has said and comparing it to how we are living.

2. When you look in the mirror, is it a faithful Christian looking back?

Application & Conclusion:

1. The Bible reveals characteristics of the faithful, surely we want to have those characteristics.
2. Failure to possess them means we are not the faithful person we should be.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9