

John 13:15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

What were the traits and practices
of Jesus and His apostles that are
to fill our lives?

The trait that probably stands out most in our minds is “love” because of His love for us.

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

But the trait that stands out most in the Gospels is Jesus showing His love for others by correcting their faulty knowledge of God's word.

He came to call them to repentance.

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

In the Sermon on the Mount,
Jesus makes 5 accusations, saying
the multitude has not been taught
God's will and specifies both
action and cure.

Jesus first accuses their teachers of false teaching on unjustified anger Mt 5.21-26

Mat 5:21-22 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

(22) But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Then he accuses them of false teaching on adultery,
lust and sinful divorce Mt 5.27-32

Mat 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who looks
at a woman with lustful intent has already
committed adultery with her in his heart.

Mat 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who
divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual
immorality, makes her commit adultery, and
whoever marries a divorced woman commits
adultery.

Next he says they have been
taught to vow falsely Mt 5.33-37

Mat 5:33 “Again you have heard
that it was said to those of old,
‘You shall not swear falsely, but
shall perform to the Lord what
you have sworn.’

Then they have been taught personal determinations
as judicial findings Mt 5.38-41

Mat 5:38-42 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ (39) But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. (40) And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. (41) And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. (42) Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Finally he tells them their teaching has been perverted by reversing God's law of love (Lev 19.18) for others Mt 5.42-48

Matt 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?

47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Lev 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

The Law of Moses did not tell them to “hate their enemy.”

The scribes and Pharisees had literally changed the word of God and Jesus called them on it!

Robertson, a Greek Scholar, says the Talmud (Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend comprising the Mishnah and the Gemara) says nothing about love for enemies.

Jesus condemns their practice of religion in regard to their relationship with God.

In 10 areas, Jesus rebukes their practice in regard to their relationship with God.

They have been taught
incorrectly and their
practice must be
corrected for them to be
right with God!

Righteousness before men rather than
God Mt 6.1

Alms before men rather than God Mt 6.2-
4

Prayer before men rather than God Mt
6.5-13

Wanting forgiveness from God and
refusing it to men Mt 6.14-15

An attitude of sorrow for sin before men
rather than God Mt 6.16-18

Seeking treasure on earth rather than in heaven Mt 6.19-34

Judgment by their standard rather than God's Mt 7.1-5

Giving that which is valuable to those who would profane it Mt 7.6

Failing to trust God and not treating others as God would treat them Mt 7.7-12

Failing to follow God Mt 7.13-14

Jesus warns them to be careful of false teachers. Mt 7.15-23

Matt 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits. 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Jesus warns them to listen and follow what He had taught them about the Law of Moses. Mt 7.24-27

Mat 7:24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Jesus has just summarized His lesson by telling them that they cannot sit at the feet of false teachers and be saved.

In the same way, we must warn those who believe in Jesus that they cannot sit at the feet of false teachers and be saved.

Jesus preached against religious
error!

Preaching against error is His
main theme!

He did so out of His love for His
listeners!

Jesus' entire first major sermon has been one against the religious error of the teachers of the Law of Moses in His time.

There are times when people get upset because gospel preachers teach against religious error and only want sermons on the easy side of love.

A lesson against religious error is a sermon on love

Matt 7:28 The result was that when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching; 29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Have you ever noticed the difference in a denominational sermon and one delivered by a faithful gospel preacher?

Faithful gospel preachers do not lead men astray, but teach those in the listening audience God's word and obedience.

Mt 7.21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them,
"Go into all the world and preach
the gospel to all creation. 16 "He
who has believed and has been
baptized shall be saved; but he
who has disbelieved shall be
condemned.