

The PRISM



Sunshine Church of Christ

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Bible Principles Learned From a Dog

What kind of biblical principles can we learn from a common dog you ask? Those of us who are dog "lovers" (my wife and I have a miniature dachshund) will tell you that there are several Bible principles we can learn from our canine companions by the characteristics they display toward us humans. In this article, let us look at ten characteristics of the common dog and see what biblical principles we can learn from them.

Dogs Are Faithful

There have been dogs that have been physically (and mentally) abused and mistreated, yet remain faithful to their masters. We as Christians have a Master that we must be faithful to even though there will be times when we will (as the dog) have to endure physical or mental abuse from our fellow man. Our Master indicated such when He said, *"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved"* (Mt. 10:22). Christ states through the beloved John that we will have to endure trials and tribulations but if we are *"faithful unto death,"* our Master will give us *"a crown of life"* (Rev. 2:10). Let us therefore learn from the common dog the Bible principle of faithfulness.

Dogs Are Obedient

When young dogs are properly trained, they are fully obedient to the commands their master gives them. In like manner, Christians (when properly trained in Bible teaching) will be fully obedient to the commands of our Master (Jn. 14:15; 15:10, 14; 1 Jn. 1:3-5; 3:22-24).

Dogs Are Loving

Dogs are extremely loving even to the point of giving their life in order to save their master's life. Stories have been repeatedly told of loving dogs giving their lives in rescuing their masters from certain death (i.e., drowning, freezing to death in extreme temperatures, heart attacks, attacks from other animals, violent people, etc.) As loving servants of Christ, we have to be willing to give up our life (worldly gain and pleasures - Mt. 16:24-25; 1 Jn. 2:15-17) for our Master as well since He was willing to give His life for ours (Jn. 10:11; 15:13; Rom. 5:7-8; Eph. 5:2; 1 Jn. 3:16). The result of a sacrificial life is an eternal reward (Mt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6; 1 Cor. 3:8; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev. 2:23; 22:12).

Dogs Are Trusting

Dogs trust their masters implicitly! They trust that they will provide for their every need. God's Word teaches that our heavenly Father (our Master) will provide our every need (Mt. 6:24-34; Phil. 4:19) if we will only trust Him (Heb. 2:13; cf. Job 13:15; Ps. 18:2; Isa. 12:2).



Prayer Requests

For those in the gulf area that are still suffering from the effects of Katrina and Rita
For our national leaders and world leaders

as they lead their respective nations.

For our troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Iraq, Liberia, Haiti and other places.

For the lost in our families and community.

For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chetri

Zane Sims has been referred to a specialist at OSU. Appointment in July.

Arlene Knore is home now having her rehab from the shoulder repair surgery.

Gwen Skaggs is suffering with serious breathing problems at home.

Don Wise (Terry Sullivan's brother in law) remains in serious condition at Bellefonte Hospital.

Coriell Curry (son of Annette Coriell's niece) had major abdominal surgery for cancer again.

Candi Gampp's grandmother. Hospice care has begun for her.

Sympathy Extended

To the family of **Charles King** (Cheryl Sims' uncle) who passed away Tuesday evening in Portsmouth.

Wedding Shower/Dinner

There will be a wedding shower/pitch-in dinner here in the annex on July 23 from 4-6 pm for Josh Coriell and Christian O'Rourke. This one's for men and women but we promise, guys—no girly games! Drinks and dessert will be provided. Please bring a casserole or side dish and come celebrate with us! The couple is registered at Wal-Mart, Kohl's and Linens-n-Things. See Cathy or Marybeth Coriell for details.

Sunday PM Services

To be announced.

Looking Ahead at Sunshine

7/16-22 Camp Time at Fort Hill
7/23 Wedding Shower for Josh and Christian
7/30 Deacon's Meeting, 5 pm, Annex.
9/30 Spirit Club Big Bash

VBS Evaluation Meeting Today

This morning after church, all adults and teens that helped with VBS are invited to an evaluation meeting in the Annex. Ideas for next year's theme will also be discussed.

Moms In Touch

A community prayer group is forming this fall for moms, grandmothers, or any woman who is willing to pray for a specific child and school for 1 hour each week. For questions call 820-4624 or visit momsintouch.org on the web. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer if you are interested.

Spirit Club Slide Show

Postponed for one week due to a very busy schedule this week for the prep guy.

VBS Cookie Containers

In the Annex...by the kitchen...lots of them...pick yours up today! Thank you very much.

Cub Scouts

All cub scouts going to camp, check in with Steve Williams on the dates.

Quarterly Deacons Meeting

Sunday, July 30, 5 pm, all deacons are requested to meet in the Annex for their quarterly meeting.

Church Camp Gear Needed

If you have a disco ball, lava lamp or colored Christmas lights that we could use at church camp next week, please let Kendra Cram or Kim McCray know ASAP. Thanks.

Junior Devo Hosts Needed

Please see the sheet on the bulletin board to sign up for hosting a Junior Devo. Many dates are open at this point.

Teen Devo

Special event. Boat ride hosted by Julie and Jayma Rase. Limited to 25. Sign the list on the table.

Fitness Class

Resumes regular meeting times this week.

Bible Curriculum

Sunday	Wednesday
7/9 Jude	7/12 1 Sam 17
7/16 Rev (Intro)	7/19 1 Sam 18-20
7/23 Rev 21-22	7/26 1 Sam 21-23
7/30 Luke 1:1-25	8/2 1 Sam 24-25

BIBLE PRINCIPLES LEARNED FROM A DOG

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Dogs Are Helpful

There is a television program called "Animal Planet" that demonstrates how properly trained dogs can help mentally and physically challenged people carry on normal everyday activities. The Psalmist declares that *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"* (Psa. 46:1) and because of His help *"we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea"* (vs. 2). Because of God's help in our troubled lives, we should be willing to help others (Acts 2:45; 4:34-35; Phil. 4:3; 2 Cor. 8).

Dogs Are Dependable

Dogs are always there when you need them (unlike human beings!). In like manner, God is always there when we need Him! God is dependable! (Gen. 28:15; Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).

Dogs Are Protective

When their master is being attacked by an individual or animal bent on doing bodily harm to them, dogs are extremely protective of their master and immediately come to their aid. As faithful followers of our Master (Christ), we should be willing to protect the truth of the gospel at any cost (Acts 4:16-20; 5:27-33; 7:51-60; 1 Tim. 6:1; 2 Tim. 1:13; Tit. 1:9; Jude 3).

Dogs Are Friendly

Dogs are usually friendly toward all people unless trained otherwise. They display a "friendly" disposition when we arrive home from work, play with them and certainly when we feed them! In order for us as Christians to win others for Christ, we must demonstrate friendliness toward others. Christ was *"a friend of publicans and sinners"* (Mt. 11:19) because He knew they needed spiritual help and healing from sin (Mt. 9:10-13).

Dogs Are Gentle

As dogs usually display the characteristic of gentleness in the demeanor toward their masters, we as Christians should display the same characteristic toward our fellow man (Eph. 6:5; Tit. 3:2; Jam. 3:17; 1 Pet. 2:18).

Dogs Are Kind

Well trained dogs are usually kind not only to their masters but to their whole human family as well. This author has seen children riding the backs of Great Danes and Saint Bernard dogs without incident. In fact, these very huge dogs seem to really enjoy carrying children on their backs! As Christians, we are admonished to be kind to our fellow man (Eph. 4:32) as our Lord (Master) is even to *"the unthankful and to the evil"* (Lk. 6:35).

Conclusion

Brethren, let us be found with every characteristic that "man's best friend" displays as we have enumerated in this article. If we will incorporate these biblical principles and characteristics into our everyday lives, we will not only win more souls for our Master but will bring more honor and glory to Him (Mt. 5:14-16; Jn. 15:8; Phil. 1:11).

Mike Riley

Montana Street Church of Christ
El Paso, TX

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning

Bible Class Text
Welcome & Prayer
Song Director
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Lord's Supper - Server 6
Server 5
Server 4
Wine
Bread
Server 3
Server 2
Server 1
Message
Closing Prayer

July 9

Jude
Jon Coriell
Ralph Gampp
Dewey Cordle
John Berry
Ira Coriell
Ryan Coriell
Matt Cram
Rich Book
Bud Coriell
Troy Gahm
Barry Gampp
Harold Gampp
Steve Miller
Shawn Gragg

July 16

Revelation Intro
Wayne Gampp
Shawn McCray
Jacob Miller
Eric McLaughlin
Andrew O'Dell
Travis Scott
Dale Kuhn
Price Gammon
Mark Gampp
Aaron Franke
Brent Frazie
Steve Williams
Steve Miller
Matt Hoskins

Sunday Evening

Song Leader
Opening Prayer
Lord's Supper
Closing Prayer

Gabe Coriell
Jason Coriell
Josh Coriell
Greg Coriell

Jamie Riley
Mike Gampp
Tim Gampp
Jack Jennings

Wednesday Evening

Song Director
Prayer
Bible Class Text

July 12

Zach Coriell
Terry Sullivan
1 Samuel 17

July 19

Aaron McCray
Zack Sims
1 Samuel 18-20

Scheduled Services

Sunday

Bible Study - 9:45 am
Worship - 10:30 am
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

The Prism is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover.

Deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. Friday. News items may be called to Al Graff or Steve Miller or e-mailed to:

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or

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sunshine-church.blogspot.com

Elders

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Ministers

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Jamie Riley	820-3348	jriley@sunshine-church.org
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Terry Sullivan	776-7056	ply642002@yahoo.com
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Building	820-3415
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Church Office Hours
8-12 M-F

Deacons & Areas of Ministry

Rich Book	820-3213	Education, Elbrooke Services, Library
Jason Coriell	820-4739	Treasurer, Benevolence
Scott Gampp	820-3545	Worship, Special Events
Gary Glispie	776-4279	Church Directory, Program of Work
Alan Graff	776-7905	Bulletin, Advertising, Front Sign, Computers
Dick Havens	456-5009	Building Maintenance, Supplies
Shaun McCray	776-7738	Treasurer, Office Supplies
Homer Miller	776-7550	Funerals, Hospital Visitation, Attendance
Eugene Risner	820-2256	Fire, Health, Seniors, Joy of Giving
Willis Shumway	820-2833	Building Use & Security, Baptistry