

# The Desire To Be Perfect

*“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”  
Matthew 5:48, English Standard Version*

Matthew 5:48 – Is it \_\_\_\_\_ for us to obey this command?

## “Perfect”: The Meaning And The Reality

- A. “Perfectionism is a trait that makes life an endless \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on accomplishments or looks” (Psychology Today).
- B. Can we reach a point of sinlessness?
1. Romans 7:18,19 – Paul had the \_\_\_\_\_ to do right, but not the \_\_\_\_\_. He constantly struggled with \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. 1 Corinthians 10:12 – We must take \_\_\_\_\_ if we think we \_\_\_\_\_, for we may be ready to \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. 1 John 1:8-10 – If we say we have no \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, and the \_\_\_\_\_ isn't in us.
- C. Matthew 19:21 – The young \_\_\_\_\_ chose not to be \_\_\_\_\_. Did Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ him for that decision?

## What Desiring To Be Perfect Means For Christians

- A. Genesis 17:1 – God told \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ before Him and to be \_\_\_\_\_. That meant \_\_\_\_\_ to God's will.
- B. A desire to be mature in knowing and doing God's will:
1. James 1:4 – Trials will lead to \_\_\_\_\_, and this aids us in become \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Hebrews 5:13,14 – Those who are not \_\_\_\_\_ will be content to live on \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Philippians 3:12-15 – Paul \_\_\_\_\_ on toward the goal, and urged those who are \_\_\_\_\_ to think the same way.
  4. Colossians 1:28 – Paul's desire was to present \_\_\_\_\_ mature in \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Matthew 5:46-48 – Do we only \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ us? We must strive to be more like \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ everyone. Stott: “... that perfect love of God which is shown even to those who do not \_\_\_\_\_ it.”

To be perfect means we are \_\_\_\_\_ to always be \_\_\_\_\_ and improving. We're not content with where we are at the moment.

*Central Church of Christ, Johnson City, Tennessee, June 18, 2023, p.m.*