

# What are the Characteristics of a Good Teacher?

By Duane D. Miller

In the process of sanctification<sup>1</sup> G-d is working to thresh out things which inhibit our growth spiritually. I believe G-d works in the lives of all of his children and even those who are teachers. I believe sometimes teachers need to take a few steps back, humble themselves, and listen to what the Lord is trying to teach them. As a result I decided to write this short discussion on what are the characteristics of a good teacher after having an altercation recently between me and a long time friend online.

A good Bible teacher has a desire to help other people see the truth that is found in the scriptures in an easy and simplistic manner. People who have the gift of teaching that is given from G-d have the following characteristics:

## Characteristics

1. Considerate to other people's opinions (even though they may disagree).
2. Show Kindness to their students.
3. Responds in a Loving way.
4. Does not behave immaturely during a discussion.
5. Does not become angry when someone disagrees with their interpretation.
6. Does not lash out in anger to people when they disagree and then claim they will not pursue debate to resolve the difference in opinion.
7. Demonstrate the Gifts of the Spirit:

אגרת פולוס השליח אליהגלטיים 2,3 5:22-23  
ופרי הרוח הוא אהבה שמחה ושלום א'רל אפים נדיבות חסד נאמונה:  
ענוה והצנע לקת ולמדדות פאלה אין תורה:

One of the key aspects of a good teacher is to be longsuffering with those who one is speaking too. While discussing the scriptures online many occasions arise where there are other people who disagree with what the bible says concerning spiritual truth, so much so, one needs to be longsuffering in the pursuit of spiritual truth. The misconception/misunderstanding of scripture generally results from an English/Greek understanding. The pursuit of helping

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1. Sanctification = involves more than a mere moral reformation of character, brought about by the power of the truth: it is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing the whole nature more and more under the influences of the new gracious principles implanted in the soul in regeneration. In other words, sanctification is the carrying on to perfection the work begun in regeneration, and it extends to the whole man. 2003: Eastons Dictionary, Bible Foundation.
  2. 1998, 1966. יצחק-זאלקינסאן, הברית החדשה. Trinitarian Bible Society. 540.
  3. Gal.-5:22-23, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*, in *The Scofield Study Bible*, Oxford University Press: New York.

people to understand the scriptures most of the time will lead one back to the historical (Jewishness of the scriptures) and grammatical (Hebrew mindset) examples.

Furthermore, a good Bible teacher needs to study to show themselves approved unto G-d (2tim:15) so when an opportunity arises for sharing the gospel of Yeshua Hamoshiach one is able to skillfully and accurately teach the world in Truth. If one never studies the scriptures they are unskillful in the word of righteousness. I have met quite a few people who are unskilled in the word of G-d. A recent example was in the course of a discussion with a friend it was said that Yeshua sinned by healing on the Shabbat. In this instance, not only is there an unskilled use of the word of G-d, but there is also a lack of discernment between rabbinical teaching and biblical teaching. Why? Hebrews 5:12-13 seems to shed some light on that:

5:12-14<sup>4</sup> עברית<sup>5</sup>

כִּי תַחַת אֲשֶׁר הָיָה עֲלֵיכֶם לְהִיּוֹת מוֹרִים בְּרֹב הַיָּמִים נְחוּץ הַדְּבָר עֲתָה לְשׁוּב לְחַוֹּת דַּעַת לְכֶם מִה הִמָּה אֲבַי פְּנֵה  
בְּתוֹרַת אֲדָהִים וּנְכֹנִים אַתֶּם לְחֵלֵב וְדָא לְלֶחֶם שְׂמֹן:  
כִּי כָל־מִי אֲשֶׁר חֵלֵב מְזוֹנוֹ אֵין לוֹ דַּעַה בְּדַבְרֵי צְדָק כִּי עוֹלֵל הוּא:

In conclusion, no matter where you are at spiritually, or where you may think you are spiritually, we need to continue to seek the Lord by drawing near to him through studying his word and in prayer and most of all humbling ourselves before G-d. The Lord has laid the path before us in the scriptures (תהילים 119:105 גִּירָלְגִּילִי דְבַרְךָ וְאֵין לִי לְנִתְיָבָה, :)<sup>6</sup> so I challenge you to remain in his word, and study to show thyself approved unto G-d and continue to teach G-d's truth in light of the characteristics of being representatives of G-d here on Earth.

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## הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
“Yeshua” King Messiah for ever and ever

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2. 1998 ,1966 הברית החדשה, יצחק-זאלקינסאן, Trinitarian Bible Society. 540.
  4. Heb.-5:12-14, *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.* , in *The Scofield Study Bible*, Oxford University Press: New York.
  5. Ginsburg, C.S., 1894 תורה, נביאים, כתובים. תנך - תורה, London: Trinitarian Bible Society.
  6. Psa119:105, *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* , in *The Scofield Study Bible*, Oxford University Press: New York.