

Christian Ideal

A model or pattern of greatness that continuously stimulates us to change or progress. The hope of a Christian Ideal is that it enables us to grow in our relationships with God, Self and Other.

3 Examples

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself.

James 1:19,22; 3:17-18: You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Community, and a sense of, is something I believe God calls us to. Working together as the body of Christ is a wonderful thing. Upholding these gifts and celebrating God through them is what I believe church can be about.

If our Christian ideal is central to our understanding of our call to ministry and the ministry we are involved in, it can be used as a reflective tool to measure how we are doing. So if my ideal is the two great commandments: I ask myself how was I a loving person in this or that situation, how am I loving God, how am I loving myself.

James is a challenge to action in ministry. If this is your ideal reflect on your actions and how they brought others to active ministries in the parish, to building peace, to being a gentle spirit.

Or Community; how was my response in this situation an example of building up the body of Christ manifested here in this community.

If you do not have an ideal... consider what it might be. What is your value system? Then live with it. Think about it.. Feel it... Touch it.... Taste it....

Look for signs of it in your daily living.

Be specific, very specific. What enabled you to live it this day?

Daily ask yourself when you did not live it... be specific, very specific.. give details... seek out what prevented you from living it, without blaming others, take responsibility for your thoughts, feelings, actions.

Ask yourself, how have I grown in my relationships:

With God?

With myself?

With others?