

Biblical-Philosophical Psychology 81— Sanctification: Spiritual virtues 21 (Faith, Hope, & Providence)

Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)

T/G/B

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology

P.R. - 32

Hermeneutics
Linguistics
Epistemology 9 Existence 11
Metaphysics -32 Trans. 50
Reality –Logic 32, Truth 32

Opening passages, Jn 8:32; Matt. 22:37-38; Rom. 8:28.

Gaining capacity to see the invisible God and Truth:

- Before any modern believer can properly understand the nature of God/Esse, creation, the Bible, and the spiritual life, he must become a philosophical Realist, i.e. a Christian philosopher. Most Christians today do not believe in the God of the Bible.
- Becoming a Christian philosopher (PR), is more about the ability to see Reality as such than simply gaining information.
- Examine your own ability to see the attributes of God through this rock, cf., Romans 1:20-21.

Stage 3

Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician = life of glory!

- Metaphysical understanding of God.
- Virtuous love for God: Intellective, volitional, emotional love of God. Enduring fellowship.
- Life of “above all you could ever ask or imagine”

Holy Spirit ↑ Bible Doctrine

Stage 2

Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer = life of doctrine!

- Nominal understanding of God.
- Through BD this believer has gained a great deal of perinoetic truth about God & the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God’s *nature* due to lack of metaphysics.
- He has become more stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in absolute truths.

Holy Spirit ↑ Bible Doctrine

Stage 1

Stage 1 – Christian baby = life of ups and downs.

- Utilitarian understanding of God.
- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to pagan horizon of meaning. All baby believers are tossed here and there by kosmos diabolicus, Eph. 4:14.
- For baby believers it is primarily about pragmatism. In other words, if it works or feels good, they think it must be true.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-11

1. Do we live in a chance universe or is it under the complete governance of God? Realism and the Bible teach that because God's providence is real, ultimately there are no accidents in human history. All causality ultimately is based on and flows from God.

Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Matthew 6:28 "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

Matthew 6:30 "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more take care of you? You of little faith!

Matthew 10:29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Acts 17:26-27 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God (ζητεῖν τὸν θεόν), if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together (συνεργεῖ) for good to those who love God (τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεόν), to those who are called according to His purpose.

Ephesians 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all the things after the counsel of His will,

Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power

2. Causation, both existential and change, has always been an major problem for science because cause, ultimate or secondary, as such cannot be seen with the 5 senses. There are three major stages of science in human history according to theories of causation:
 - The world as an organism. Failure of organistic physics.
 - The world as mechanism. Failure of mechanistic physics.
 - The world as a pattern of numbers. Failure of numerical physics.

3. There are 6 views of creation. Consider this rock:

#1: Physicalism: “This rock created itself or always existed.” Why are these two positions untenable? Consider the inescapable irrationality one must adopt to hold to either position. Although atheists attempt to live without metaphysics, they cannot. Physicalism is a direct result of suppression of God.

#2: Agnosticism: “I don’t know how this rock came into existence.” What must one do to maintain this position? Agnosticism is a result of suppression of God (cf. Romans 1:20).

3. There are 6 views of creation.

#3: Deism: “God or some supreme power created this rock in the past, but it now remains autonomous in giving itself being and in all of its operations.” This rock is no longer in the hands of God. The rock has its own power. Most modern Christians unthinking Christians hold this position, even though to do so has always been heretical in all major monotheistic faiths. Deism is a result of suppression of God.

#4: Conservationism. “God not only gave this rock being, He continually conserves its being along with every other contingent being.” However, God is not in control of the powers or operations of beings. It has its own operations. Conservation is a rejection of the God of the Bible.

3. There are 6 views of creation.

#5: Concurrentism: “God not only gives this rock existence, He is deeply involved in giving existence to all of the operations of its properties.” Both God and creatures are involved in its activity. God cooperates or concurs with all secondary causes. This is the only view that concurs with Scripture.

#6: Occasionalism: “God’s will gives this rock existence and since nothing occurs apart from God, He also directly produces all causes between things. Occasionalism is a rejection of all finite, secondary causation.

4. The need to make a distinction between creation and making/manufacturing in order to understand the need for the continuation of divine power for the continued existence and operation of all beings.
 - Consider the power it would take to create this rock out of nothing. Consider the quantum jump from anything manufactured on the natural level.
 - Now, consider the lack of difference it makes if one takes this rock and makes figurines out of it. Nothing changes as far as power needed to continue giving it existence.

5. Some of the ramifications for the modern lack of intellectual ability of Christians and non-Christians to grasp the concurrence of God, the invisible hand of God in the operations of all creation.
 - Deistic tendencies lacking ability to trust, honor, and thank God in and for all of creation.
 - False, deficient view of the God of the Bible.
 - The need for Christian philosophy to repair the cognitive damage.
 - Spiritual failure due to lack of robust understanding of divine providence.
 - Failure to appreciate the fact that your life is in the hands of God continuously.

Faith, hope, and divine providence (concurrency)

1. The relationship between reason and theological faith.

➤ Reason.

- ❖ Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

➤ Faith and reason.

- ❖ John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

2. Discussion of biblical hope and the providence of God:

- Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."
 - ✓ Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18 it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called." 19 He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.
- Genesis 42:36 And their father Jacob said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me."

Genesis 50:20 "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Exodus 2:2-6 And the woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was good [טוֹב], she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it, and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. 4 And his sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him. 5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

Job 1:20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." 22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

Job 38:1-8, 31-33; 9:1-6, 13-17; 42:6.

Psa. 23. Theological faith, hope, and love are inseparable. God never promises you a life free from problems. What He has promised you is that He will be with you.

Matt. 6:19-34

Luke 13:1-5

John 9:1-3

Rom. 8:18; 28. The 4 choices for you in 2014 in your act-potential being of becoming.

- good—BAD
- bad—GOOD
- bad—BAD
- GOOD—GOOD.

2 Cor. 4:17

Eph. 1:18.

Philip. 1:21-25

Col. 3:1-2

1 Tim. 4:10

Titus 2:11-3:8

Heb. 6:19; 10:23

Summary of theological superhuman love

- ❖ Discussion of theological love (Matt. 22:37-39; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Eph. 3:16-19; 1 Thess. 3:12; 1 John 3:16-18).

ROMANS 12:1 & the bestowal of superhuman Faith, Hope, and Love

- ❖ All believers in the Bible who received theological, superhuman faith, hope, and love gave themselves to the Lord (Rom. 12:1).
- ❖ Every believer must understand the three foes that undermine his ability to present himself to the Lord and receive superhuman faith, hope and love.
 - The world, John 17:11-17; Matt. 6:19-33; 1 John 2:15-17.
 - The flesh, John 4:23-24; Rom. 8:4-9; Gal 5:16-23
 - The devil, Eph. 6:10-20; Matt. 16:22, 23; 26:33; 6:13; 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Pet. 5:8-9.

Romans 12

➤ Virtues 5-7: Spiritual virtues of genuine humility

- 5) **Don't think too highly** of yourself.
- 6) **Have sober judgment** about yourself (in relation to others).
- 7) **Serve others** with your spiritual gift.

Pride as a vice should never be confused with what is known as “taking pride” in accomplishments. There is a valid and healthy esteem that one can “take pride in” with regard to accomplishments, friends, family, and even country.

Galatians 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

➤ Virtues 8-37: Spiritual virtues related to supernatural love

8) Genuine Love (γενέσθω). The virtue of love, the greatest virtue!

- 9) Abhorring evil,
- 10) Clinging to good,
- 11) Devoted to one another
- 12) Preferring one another,
- 13) Not lagging in diligence,
- 14) Fervent in Spirit,
- 15) Serving the Lord,
- 16) Rejoicing in hope
- 17) Persevering in tribulation
- 18) Devoted to prayer
- 19) Contributing to the needs of the saints
- 20) Practicing hospitality

**THESE VIRTUES ALL DEAL WITH SPIRITUAL LOVE –
THE GREATEST CHRISTIAN VIRTUE.**

**ILLUSTRATIONS OF HOW LOVE CHANGES THE
DIRECTION OF A PERSON'S THOUGHTS.**

- 21) Bless our persecutors
- 22) Don't curse our persecutors
- 23) Rejoice with those who rejoice
- 24) Weeping with those who weep
- 25) Being like-minded
- 26) Not being haughty,
- 27) Associating with lowly,
- 28) Not being wise in self-estimation
- 29) Not repaying evil for evil
- 30) Respecting what is right before all men
- 31) As far as possible, being at peace with all men
- 32) Never taking revenge
- 33) Trusting God to right the wrong
- 34) Feeding others (providing goods to enemies)
- 35) Giving drink to others (returning good to enemies)
- 36) Not being overcome by evil
- 37) Overcoming all evil.

THIS IS A PICTURE OF HOW ONE ACCOMPLISHES SANCTIFICATION/SALVATION OVER THE POWER OF SIN, I.E. SPIRITUAL VIRTUE!

Spiritual virtue: supernatural love illustrated

Moral love

#9: hating evil (moral love) (Ἀποστύγοῦντες τὸ πονηρόν), 9. True Christian love hates evil. Unless there is hatred for evil, there is no true love of what is good. One cannot love God and love evil simultaneously. People love what they think is their good.

Love for true good

#10: clinging to the good [goodness of love] (κολλώμενοι τῷ ἀγαθῷ), 9.
True Christian love loves true good. Our love will necessarily show itself in our determination to hold fast to the good. What is your good?

Special love for the royal family of God

#11: devotion to fellow believers in brotherly love [special love]
(φιλόστοργοιτῆ **φιλαδελφία** 10. Christian love naturally manifests its in love for fellow believers (1 John 3:14; Gal. 6:10).

Preferential love and honor for fellow believers

#12: in honor preferring fellow believers (προηγούμενοι τῇ τιμῇ), 10 [preference in love]. True Christian love honors fellow believers. This is an expression of love in humility—“leading the way” in honor fellow believers.

Faithfulness of love

#13: not indolent, not lagging behind in diligence (τῇ σπουδῇ μὴ ὀκνηροί), 11 [faithfulness in love]. True Christian love is not lazy or indolent about the things of God. Sloth is perhaps the most deadly sin today.

Earnestness of love

#14: being fervent in spirit (τῷ πνεύματι **ζέοντες**), 11 [earnestness of love]. True Christian love is always fervent. Christ predicted that the love of many would grow cold in the last times, Matt. 24:12. Our lives are to ones of fervency regarding God and the things of God.

Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

1. God's grave warnings regarding spiritual sloth.
 - Don't drift, Heb. 2:1-4
 - Don't wander, Heb. 3:12-13
 - Don't be dull or apathetic about God's Word, Heb. 5:11-6:8
 - Don't shrink back, Heb. 10:26-31.
 - Listen! 12:25-29.

Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

2. Spiritual sloth is the most prevalent sin in our age. It is the sin that so clearly distinguishes modern Western society from all previous societies too.

Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- Spiritual sloth refuses to exert the will toward the Good.
- It is a sin against love of God. It robs a person for their appetite, interest, and enjoyment in God. The person stops pursuing God. There is a general indifference and dismissive attitude to God.
- Spiritual sloth should not be confused with general laziness. Generally, people who are spiritually slothful are frantically busy with their Martha-like world—cf., the frantic activism in our government.
- It is the most prevalent sin in modern society. We live in the first generation that does not know *who it is or why it is*.

Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- It is a sin of omission, not commission. There is little to no active seeking of God or His will in prayer or in the Word. It is *lack* of seeking God and hungering for righteousness.
- A cold sin, a sin of indifference that is described as making Christ want to vomit. Lack of devotion and love for God.
- Boredom with life and God. They have all kinds of entertainment gadgets but their souls are empty of the beauty of life and God.
- Stops man from seeking God, thus finding Him.
- Causes the light to be darkness and the salt to lose its saltiness. It tends to be amoral instead of immoral.

Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- No desire for spiritual and heavenly tasks or rewards. The idea that they could lose *eternal* rewards means nothing to them.
- The only antidote is hungering for God and His righteousness, Matt. 6.

Genuineness of love illustrated in Romans 12

#15: serving the Lord (τῷ κυρίῳ **δουλεύοντες**), 11. True Christian love serves the Lord, the CCL. The genuineness of love. How can anyone say they really love the Lord if they are not serving Him? What kind of love is that? John 14:151; Colossians.

The joy of love

#16: rejoicing in hope (τῇ ἐλπίδι **χαίροντες**), 12. True Christian love is filled with the joy of hope: the power of love for God in the presence of suffering and tribulation. What kind of love does not rejoice in the Lord and His hope? Joy and delight always follow love.

The endurance of love

#17: persevering in tribulation (τῇ θλίψει **ὑπομένοντες**), 12. True Christian love will not give up during the trials of life. The endurance of love: only with true love for God and the things of God is this possible.

Consider Abraham's perseverance in testing.

The devotion of love

#18: devoted to prayer (τῇ προσευχῇ **προσκατεροῦντες**), 12. True Christian love spends time with God in prayer.

The unselfishness of love

#19: contributing to the needs of the saints (ταῖς χρείαις τῶν ἁγίων **κοινωνοῦντες**), 13. True Christian love is unselfish. See James 1:26-27.

The large-heartedness of love

#20: practicing hospitality (τὴν φιλοξενίαν **διώκοντες**), 13. True Christian love is large-hearted.

Virtue: Love that blesses persecutors.

#21: bless them which persecute you (εὐλογεῖτε). True Christian love loves enemies. This is straight from the Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:10-11.

#22: do not curse (μὴ καταρᾶσθε). True Christian love does not curse enemies. Loving our enemies instead of running them down.

Virtue: love that empathizes

#23: rejoice with those who rejoice (χαίρειν μετὰ χαιρόντων). True Christian love is happy for others; it is not envious. Love is always glad when others are blessed. Love is never envious.

#24: weep with those who weep (κλαίειν μετὰ κλαιόντων). True Christian love is compassionate.

Spiritual Virtue: a love that seeks common ground

#25: be of the same mind toward one another (τὸ αὐτὸ εἰς ἀλλήλους φρονοῦντες). True Christian love seeks to find points of agreement.

Spiritual virtue: spurning pride and arrogance.

#26: do not be haughty (μὴ τὰ ὑψηλὰ φρονοῦντες). True Christian love is not interested in pre-eminence.

#27-associate with the lowly (ταπεινοῖς συναπαγόμενοι). True Christian love cares for those of lower states, those others do not care about.

Spiritual virtue: love that avoids conceit

#28: "Do not be wise in your own estimation" (μὴ γίνεσθε φρόνιμοι παρ' ἑαυτοῖς.) which is connected to following clauses in verse 17-19. True Christian love avoids occupation with self-importance.

Spiritual virtue: love that refuses to take revenge

#29: never pay back evil (μηδενὶ κακὸν ἀντὶ κακοῦ ἀποδιδόντες). True Christian love does not desire revenge.

Spiritual virtue: love that respects the true, good, and beautiful

#30: respect what is right/beautiful in the sight of all men (προνοούμενοι καλὰ ἐνώπιον πάντων ἀνθρώπων). True Christian love loves the true, good, and beautiful.

Spiritual virtue: a love that seeks peace

#31: living at peace with all men (μετὰ πάντων ἀνθρώπων εἰρηνεύοντες). True Christian love always seeks peace.

#32: never take revenge (μὴ ἑαυτοὺς ἐκδικοῦντες). True Christian love is not vengeful.

Spiritual virtue: love that entrusts its cause to God.

#33: leave room for [God's' wrath (δότε τόπον τῇ ὀργῇ). True Christian love is able to trust God to take care of the situation. Our character is far more important than the details.

Spiritual virtue: love that returns good for evil.

#34: if your enemy is hungry feed him (ψώμιζε). True Christian love returns good for evil.

#35: if he is thirsty give him drink (πότιζε). True Christian love always seeks the benefit of others.

Spiritual virtue: love that overcomes evil with good

#36: do not be overcome with evil (Μὴ νικῶ ὑπὸ τοῦ κακοῦ). True Christian love is not overcome with evil. Paul's crowning point. This cannot be done apart from true love, which only comes from God. You cannot overcome evil apart from love. Love with its affections, and yes passions do enable us to see better in certain circumstances.

#37: overcome evil with good (νίκα ἐν τῷ ἀγαθῷ τὸ κακόν). True Christian love overcomes evil with good. The good is all traced back to God and Christianity. This is the secret to life and to Christianity. There is nothing like this to be found anywhere among the nations before Christ.