

**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

Opening passages, Jn 8:32; 1 Cor 13:13; Matt. 22:37-38; 1 Cor. 13:1-7; Gal. 5:22.

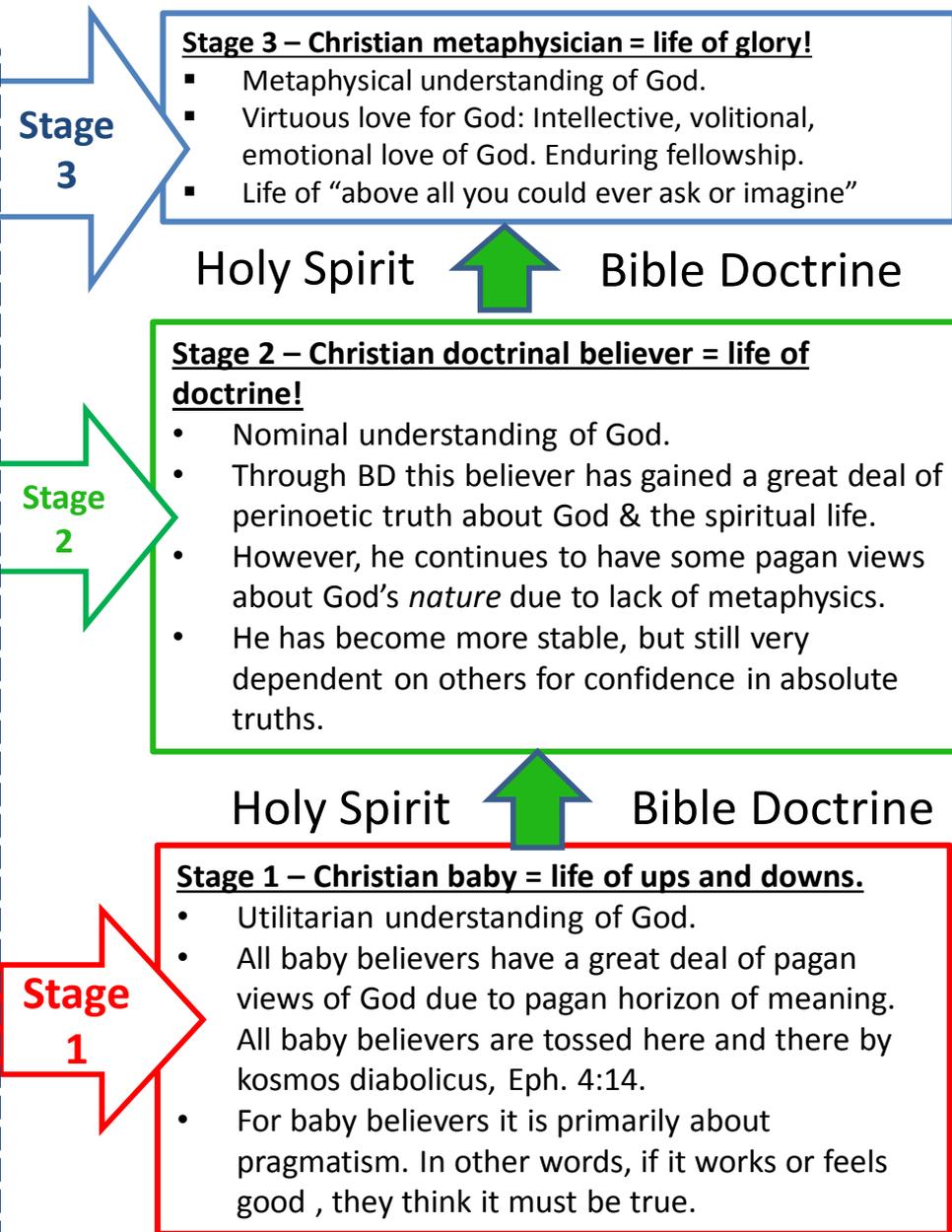
In PR the mind is in direct contact with reality. This has great significance with regard to grasping creation, God, the Bible, and the spiritual life. Take seeing the invisible God through the visible creation in Romans 1:20:

- *Clearly seeing* the invisible God through visible creation (rock).
- *Without excuse*—the evil of agnosticism (subset of atheism), atheism, polytheism, and heresy.
- The ubiquitous human problem is that he suppresses and *exchanges* truth about God to his own liking.
- Consider how total truth about God is suppressed on a regular basis throughout Christian movements. The result is *not honoring God as God or giving thanks to Him for everything*. Note the concurrence in the act-potential of becoming of Rom 1.

**P.R. - 32**

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Linguistics
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## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-12

1. Do you believe in the God of the Bible as the Source of all causation? Do you believe all causality ultimately is based on and flows from God or do you believe in chance? To believe in chance or that things can just exist by themselves is both irrational and a denial of the God of the Bible. If God is not sovereign over all things, then He is not God—certainly not the God of the Bible.

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 continue in being.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and is upholding 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 (animism).
  - The world as mechanism.
  - The world as a pattern of numbers.

3. There are 6 possible views on the creation. Consider this rock:

#1: Physicalism: “This rock created itself.” This is absurd. Physicalism is a direct result of suppression of God. It is not an intellectual issue, it is a moral issue.

- Cf., 18 century Enlightenment, which attempted to remove the God hypothesis by positing spontaneous generation of living things. This is just one of the bad results of the separation of philosophy from science.

#2 – Agnosticism. In some ways worse than atheism for it claims God is at fault not making His existence clear.

### 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 aunthinking Christians hold this position, even though it is heretical in all major monotheistic faiths. Deism is but a result of suppression of God.

#4: Conservationism. “God not only gave this rock intitial 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 its operations and 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 on “occasion” of interactions. Occasionalism is a rejection of all finite, secondary causation, cf., some forms of Calvinism when it comes to man’s thoughts and will.

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.
  - 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.

# The concurrence/providence of God and Hope

1. A biblical look at concurrence, Providence, and Hope.
  - 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.
    - ✓ It was believe in God's concurrence that enabled Abraham to have faith in what seemed impossible.

- 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."
  - ✓ Jacob lost all hope because if he thought that all things are against him, then God must be against him. However, Jacob was mistaken. He forgot about the providence of god.
  - ✓ For Joseph was prime minister of Egypt, and Simeon was under the protective care of his brother who loved him.
  - ✓ After Jacob realized Providence, God revealed to him how He was working all this out to make Israel a great nation, Gen. 46:3. It was all working out for redemption. As Jacob put it, "it is enough." This revived him as he saw how the impossible was working out in the reality of his life and the life of his loved ones.

- 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.
  - ✓ Note the concurrence of primary and secondary causality. Joseph understood two causal powers working out in his life at the same time.
  - ✓ He realized that through all of the activities of his brothers was the overarching providence of God. The brothers were only free acting secondary causes.
  - ✓ He understood that above all of these free will causal powers, those near causes, God was ultimately in control of everything.
  - ✓ Ultimately God's intentions are being worked out through free will agents who are given existence and freedom by God.

- 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."
  - ✓ Note the concurrence of Moses mother and sister to the very currents in the water and the cry of the baby that caused an emotional response in Pharaoh's daughter.

- Job 38:8 "Or who enclosed the sea with doors, When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb; 9 When I made a cloud its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band, 10 And I placed boundaries on it, And I set a bolt and doors, 11 And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop '?
- ✓ Note the language God uses to describe His causal activity with inanimate beings.
- ✓ It is actually couched in 2<sup>nd</sup> person language to make a strong point to Job about God's loving control over all things, His providence, operates with love and concern.

- Job 38:41 "Who prepares for the raven its nourishment, When its young cry to God, And wander about without food?"
  - ✓ God reveals to Job His great care for all animals in 2<sup>nd</sup> person language.
  - ✓ God makes a home for the wild donkeys and gives the hawks enough knowledge necessary for flight.
  - ✓ Furthermore, the animals are portrayed as responding to God's attention to them by interacting with God in second-personal ways.
  - ✓ Note that the ravens do not just cry when they are hungry; they cry to God.
  - ✓ Young and helpless animals are described as having a personal relationship with God—and so are powerful, fully grown animals: "Will the buffalo serve you?" (Job 39:9). They can and do serve God.

- Job 42:5 "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees Thee;
  - ✓ While God has been talking to Job about divine concurrence, Job has been, somehow, seeing God. In other words, the communication between God and Job is thus, in some sense, face-to-face communication.
  - ✓ This is not seeing through the visual system. This is an intimate acquaintance of seeing God personally as per the second-person experience with God, which is always the locus for personal love.
  - ✓ Job wanted to see God's goodness, but his face-to-face experience with God goes past goodness to love.
  - ✓ He gets no explanation for the suffering. He got love. It was not the power of God, rather the loving concurrence of God that melted Job's heart. He saw loving Providence over all things.

- Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.
  - ✓ This is a psalm of trust in the providence of God. David realized that his entire life was in the hands of God.
  - ✓ Why was it that there was no fear? Loving concurrence!
  - ✓ These shadows can be frightening. There is only one way to overcome that fear: “Thou are with me.” What courage!
  - ✓ God never promised believers that they would not have to walk through these shadows. We do not know what awaits us. But with concurrence we know that He is always there.
  - ✓ Do you really believe in the God of the Bible? Do you really believe your life is in the hands of God?

- Habbakuk 1:2-6; 12-13; 2:1-3; 3:16-19.
  - ✓ Note the change of attitude on the part of Habbakuk once He understood the concurrence of God.
  - ✓ It was trust in the providence/concurrence of God that caused him to rejoice, even in the face of personal “tragedy.”

- Luke 13:1-5 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered this fate? 3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? 5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
- John 9:1-3 And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him."

- Matt. 6:19-34
  - ✓ Note the teaching of concurrence by our Lord and His message of Hope for the next life.
  - ✓ He made it clear that this life would be followed by another life that will be connected with what we have done in this life. This is a message of Hope.
  - ✓ He is preparing a place for us, John 14:1-3. He told the thief on the cross “I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise” (Lk 23:43).
  - ✓ He also made it clear that everything that can be gained on earth pales in significance to the life beyond the grave, “What profits a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul.”

- Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together (πάντα συνεργεῖ ) for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
  - ✓ Doctrine is life and there is no doctrine that touches us deeper than divine concurrence.
  - ✓ Paul understood concurrence, cf. Col. 1:17 and Heb. 1:3.
  - ✓ Inference, irresistible logic, teaches that nothing ultimately bad can happen to you if you love God.
  - ✓ In fact everything that happens to you is for good, if you love God.
  - ✓ God has the primary cause of everything that happens and has the power in His providence to make every single thing that happens to us for our good.
  - ✓ Do you believe this? Do you believe the Bible?
  - ✓ Concurrence really is the antidote to all fear.
  - ✓ Chance really is incompatible with the nature of god.
  - ✓ We believe our own believe in the God of the Bible and Jesus Christ when we believe that anything can happen by chance.
  - ✓ Characteristics of love who truly love God in contrast to the mass of carnal Christians with their cycles of carnality and reversionism.

- 2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
- Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25 And convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

- 1 Timothy 4:10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.
- 1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.
- Titus 2:11-3:8

## 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 crowing 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.