

## Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)

### T/G/B

Eschatology  
 Thanatology  
 Ecclesiology  
 Israelology  
 Dispensationalism  
 Doxology  
 Hodology  
 Soteriology  
 Hamartiology  
 Natural Law  
 Anthropology  
 Angelology  
 Pneumatology  
 Christology  
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 Cosmology  
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 Bibliology

P.R. - 32

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology 9

Existence 30

Metaphysics -32

Trans. 50

Reality –Logic 32,

Truth 32

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Scripture on God, love, suffering, and His absolute control over all things: John 3:16; Matthew 22:37-38; Job 42:5; 1 Jn. 4:8; Rom 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Rom. 8:18; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 5:10; 2 Cor 1:3-5; Heb. 12:11.

Suffering . . . Why do we suffer? More to the point, especially if (εἰ) Christianity is true, why do we suffer? Christianity makes the problem of evil and suffering more, not less, difficult—a problem no unbeliever has. Pain would not be an intellectual problem unless we have received assurance that God is as loving as Christianity says He is and is in control. Response to the following:

1. If God were **loving/good**, He would wish his believers to be perfectly **happy**.
2. If God were all **powerful**, He could do whatever He wished.
3. But many believers are not perfectly **happy**.
4. Therefore God lacks either **loving/goodness** or **power**, or both.

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-30 (Grasping Existence of Morality)**

1. Grasp of existence of objective moral reality requires metaphysical thinking, i.e. thinking according to what something really *is*. Metaphysical thinking is world-view, a map of the whole; it is not data.
2. All right thinking, moral thinking, about reality depends upon grasping reality as such.
3. With metaphysical thinking, the believer is able to avoid the mind traps of nominalism. Consider how nominalism reshapes and perverts reality. Consider the history with Jews, Blacks, Christians. Consider how clichés can insulate the believer from reality, e.g., “don’t judge.”

## **EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-30**

4. With metaphysical thinking, the believer is able to avoid the mind traps of positivism (opinion of law) and the Zeitgeist. Consider our history with segregation.
5. With metaphysical thinking, the believer can avoid the mind traps of relativism (human opinion). He is able to think objectively, correspondence truth with reality, rather than subjectivity.
6. Once one discards metaphysics, all moral decisions come down to “might makes right.” This might comes in several forms (labels of nominalism, human laws, and human opinion).

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-30

7. Illustrations. Consider the following questions in light of

Nominalism - Positivism - Relativism - Metaphysics (what is)

- Why is it immoral to take an ax to your dog (or any animal) but not your tree?
- Why was it immoral to torture, kill, and discriminate against Blacks?
- Why was the Dred Scott decision immoral?
- Why is it wrong for someone else to train your children?
- Why is it immoral for a child to vote?
- Why is it immoral to take a handicap's parking space?
- Why is it immoral to mistreat your wife?
- Why is it immoral to mistreat your children?
- Why is it immoral to gossip?
- Why is it immoral to slander?
- Why is it immoral for a Christian to be anti-metaphysical?
- Why is it immoral for a Christian to live like an unbeliever?
- Why is it immoral for believer to live in carnality?

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-30

8. All morality and rights depend upon reality, not names (nominalism), not human law (positivism), and not what man arbitrarily decides (relativism). Man does not have the right to create reality or rights.
  
9. Consider the implications of metaphysics on understanding the Word of God, the spiritual life and Bible doctrine. Consider the destructive power of nominalism on Truth and thus grasping the spiritual life and God. Some of the following passages have been mocked by Christians. Why?
  - 1 John 1:9, confess your sins.
  - James 4:8, cleanse your hands, you sinners, purify your hearts, you double minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep and let your laughter be turn into mourning and your joy to gloom.
  - Matt 5:3, Blessed are those who are poor in spirit, mourn, gentle, hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and the persecuted.

## **EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-30**

10. More illustrations of philosophical thinking. How are the following to be paired? Why?
- Christianity.
  - Science.
  - Technology.
  - Magic.

## MATTHEW 6:19-23

### Heavenly Treasures and Suffering

**Matthew 6:19-23** Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σὴς καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει καὶ ὅπου κλέπται διορύσσουσιν καὶ κλέπτουσιν·

20 θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῶ, ὅπου οὔτε σὴς οὔτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει καὶ ὅπου κλέπται οὐ διορύσσουσιν οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν·

21 ὅπου γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θησαυρός σου, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδία σου.

22 Ὁ λύχνος τοῦ σώματός ἐστὶν ὁ ὀφθαλμός. ἐὰν οὖν ᾗ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου **ἀπλοῦς**, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου φωτεινὸν ἔσται·

23 ἐὰν δὲ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου **πονηρὸς** ᾗ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου σκοτεινὸν ἔσται. εἰ οὖν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἐν σοὶ σκότος ἐστίν, τὸ σκότος πόσον.

Note the focus in **Matthew 6:31-33**:

Matthew 6:31-33 Μὴ οὖν μεριμνήσητε, λέγοντες, Τί φάγωμεν, ἢ τί πίωμεν, ἢ τί περιβαλώμεθα; 32 Πάντα γὰρ ταῦτα τὰ ἔθνη ἐπιζητεῖ· οἶδεν γὰρ ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος ὅτι χρήζετε τούτων ἀπάντων. 33 Ζητεῖτε δὲ **πρῶτον** τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ, καὶ ταῦτα πάντα προστεθήσεται ὑμῖν.

## MATTHEW 6:19-23

### Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness

1. God is the Treasure! He is the Goal, the End, the Summum Bonum of life. All of the rest is just icing on the cake. To lose this perspective is to lose vision of the purpose of life, to lose this is to lose your way in life. Yes, there are many dwelling places that Christ is preparing for us along with many rewards in heaven, but those are not what will really fulfill our desires and give us unending joy and glory.
2. To find God as your Treasure is to realize, *'This is what I have been made for!'* *"This is why I have been created."* God is the true and deep desire of every soul. Our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

## **MATTHEW 6:19-23**

### **Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness**

- God allows no evil in any life unless He can bring out of it a greater good.
- There never has been any evil that has ever happened to anyone that God did not intend to bring out a good that He otherwise could not accomplish.

## MATTHEW 6:19-23

### Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness

3. However, it often takes a very painful process to realize God as your greatest treasure. Is not wisdom more important than pleasure? Would we not say no to many of our sufferings if given a choice, yet aren't we glad we went through those sufferings?
  - Consider Job (*not* to be viewed as dramatic failure of the author). Why would a loving God allow Job's children to be killed? Why would a loving God allow Job to be in so much pain? He did not do it, but He allowed it. It was part of His plan.
  - Consider man's inability to be happy without any suffering. Without the suffering man is but a spoiled and bored child.

## **MATTHEW 6:19-23**

### **Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness**

- Consider all of the human tragedies in light of the love and sovereignty of God. It often seems so random, but then that is what a lot of onlookers of the Cross thought as well.
- Great evil and great blessings always provide great options.

4. Consider Christ's development of virtues in the Beatitudes and the promised *great reward* (ὁ μισθὸς ὑμῶν πολὺς, Mt. 5:12). The TGB . . .

**#1, Matt. 5:3: Blessed (Μακάριοι) are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

(Grace orientation, low estimation of self before God.)

**#2, Blessed are those who mourn (πενθοῦντες) for they shall be comforted** (not all who mourn gain the reward of divine comfort)

**#3, Blessed are the gentle (πραεῖς)** (emphasis on orientation to God)

**#4, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (δικαιοσύνην) will be satisfied** (modernism curses what Christ blesses)

**#5, Blessed are the merciful (ἐλεήμονες) for they shall receive mercy** (attitude to others in need)

**#6, Blessed are the pure in heart (καθαροὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ) for they shall see God.**

**#7, Blessed are the peacemakers (εἰρηνοποιοί) for they shall be called the sons of God.**

**#8, Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness and because of Jesus Christ.** (this would include all of the above)

## MATTHEW 6:19-23

### Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness

5. Understanding God's love, goodness, sovereignty and our happiness in the face of human problems and suffering?
  - Since God is all-loving, all-good, and all-powerful, and He desires human happiness/blessedness, why is there so much suffering? Do we deny His love, sovereignty or both? Or do we adjust our understanding of His love?
  - Does God's love/goodness mean that He *merely* wants others to be happy? In other words, does He have the attitude that the only thing that matters is that believers are content—where “a good time was held by all?”

## MATTHEW 6:19-23

### Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness

- Probably 95% of the unjust suffering we receive in this life is specifically designed for blessings in the next life. Some people will actually enjoy God at a much higher degree in heaven because of how they handle suffering in this life. Far better to be in a 2<sup>nd</sup> rate carriage on the way to the Mansion than in a 1<sup>st</sup> rate carriage on the way to the gallows.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

## MATTHEW 6:19-23

### Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness

- Suffering and God's desire with unity and closeness to us. He wants to be with us in our suffering. This is more important to Him than the technique for getting out of the suffering. Christ participated in ours. It would be hard to love a God not involved in our suffering. He is with us in our sufferings is one of the most satisfying answer to our suffering.
- Instead of asking God why, He is moving events into our lives where we ask ourselves, "Why . . . why am I here, what is the purpose of my life?" Often our hands are so full of stuff, that we have no room for God. *We must need what we get.*

## **MATTHEW 6:19-23**

### **Heavenly Treasures, Suffering and Blessedness**

- God not only created us for Himself. He created us with many lower needs and desires. We all have desires for pleasure and fears of pain.
- However, we also have other deep desires, for goodness, for honor, to be closer to God, perfection, holiness.
- Sometimes the lower needs and desires must be sacrificed for the higher good (e.g., Dentist). This is all part of His love and sovereignty. God's love is far more powerful and beneficial than His kindness.
- God, out of love, is always working to correct us and to develop virtue in us, Heb. 12:5-11. The more spiritually virtuous a person is, the more of his own sinfulness he is aware of.

## Philippians 4:4-13 – More on Spiritual Value of and Virtue for faith/hope/love

- ❖ Philip. 4:4-13. Note the emphases on natural and spiritual virtue.
- ❖ Philip 4:4, “rejoice in the Lord, again I say rejoice.” It is a spiritual virtue to be able to rejoice in the Lord always. The Lord is the one area of our lives that cannot be affected by the circumstances of life.
- ❖ 4:5, “Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near”  
“Forbearance” refers to contentment in life and generosity with others. It is evidenced of having a gracious attitude toward others, especially their faults and failures, even in light of any injustices. This requires total trust in God’s Providence. The Lord being near is spatial; this is living in the presence of God.

- ❖ Philip 4:6. “Be anxious for nothing.” Is this not what Jesus taught in Matthew 6? The importance of prayer as a means of developing an open and intimate relationship with God in 2<sup>nd</sup> person.

1 Thess. 5:17, “*pray without ceasing.*”

Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the [power of] Holy Spirit;

- ❖ Anxiety indicates lack of trust in God’s wisdom, sovereignty, and power. Note the extend of God’s concurrence: “in everything.” God is in absolute control.
- ❖ You turn the corner when you stop asking God “Why?” to realizing God is asking you “why” = “why are you here? What is the purpose of your life?”

- ❖ Philip 4:7. Supernatural virtue cannot be attained unless God imparts it into the believer. This peace cannot be gained by mental or psychological mechanics. This is transcendent.
- ❖ Philip 4:8-13. Discussion of the nature and development of spiritual virtue.

## **David's faith/hope/love in God's loving concurrence.**

- Psalm 23. Note God's loving concurrence in all of David's life. Note the hope it brings in the valley of the shadow of death. It is not what is the solution to the problems of life, but Who!
- Psalm 32. God's loving concurrence in divine discipline.
- Psalm 51. God's loving concurrence in divine discipline.
- Psalm 139. God's intimate loving concurrence with David from the moment of conception.

## **Habakkuk's faith/hope/love in God's loving concurrence, Habakkuk 1:2-6; 12-13; 2:1-3; 3:16-19.**

- ✓ Note the change of attitude on the part of Habakkuk 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.”

## The Apostle Paul's faith/hope/love in God's loving concurrence.

- 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.
  - ✓ 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 is 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 belief 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.

# Supernatural virtues

MIND



WILL

## Romans 12: Spiritual Virtues

**VIRTUE** Intellective love  
Sense love

1. Verses 1-2: Supernatural dedication to God.
2. Verses 3-8: Supernatural humility.
3. Verses 9-21: Supernatural love.



Mental states,  
Affections  
&  
Passions

“Emotions” is a  
Cartesian and  
Darwinian  
concept.

## Romans 12:1-2

### ➤ Virtues 1-4: The Supernatural Virtues associated with dedication to God.

- 1) **Present** (παραστήσαι) your bodies to God.
- 2) **Stop being conformed** (μὴ συσχηματίζεσθε) to this age.
- 3) **Be transformed** (μεταμορφοῦσθε) by the renewing of the mind.
- 4) **Discern** (δοκιμάζειν) the good, enjoyable, and perfect will of God.

## Romans 12

➤ **Virtues 5-7: Supernatural virtue of humility. This follows dedication to God.**

**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 love (follow humility)

8) Supernatural love: Romans 12:9 **Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.**

- 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
- 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.

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

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

## 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.