

## 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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4/23/2014

The single greatest issue in life is virtue love for God (Matt. 22:37-40; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Philip 4:8-13; John 21:15-17). Christ says virtue love is the hinge (**κρεμάννυμι**) for all the WOG.

Furthermore, this personal virtue love is why we were created and it is what our beings long for unconsciously and/or consciously. Our hearts truly are restless until they rest in the Lord.

We can see this unconscious longing for something greater in all human beings everywhere and in all times. We see it in the poets, the scientists, the movie stars, the athletes, and the famous. We see the restless longing for something greater. The problem, however, is that man suppresses God and His Goodness and make other things idols in an attempt to fill that inner need. Hence, their blessings eventually turn to cursings as they end up calling good evil and evil good, Rom. 1:18-32.

God always honors seeking. God's supernatural revelation to Peter was only possible b/c of Peter's willingness, Matt. 16:13-17.

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-39**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Objection to Concurrentism**

1. Concurrence refers to the way to the way God is intricately involved in the existence and activities of all that exists.
  - We are on the 4<sup>th</sup> philosophical objections to concurrentism before providing a clear model of how concurrence comports with the Bible, science, and all of reality.
  - It is critical to make a distinction between creating and making. One has a foundation for existence, the other does not.
  - The whistling example.

## **EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-39**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Objection to Concurrentism**

#### **2. Objection #4: “The Problem of Subordination.”**

- The woman with the pen that has a broken tip. Who is responsible for the defective writing? The first cause or the second cause?
- What about when men sin? If God is the first cause of all operations and actions, does that make Him guilty of sinful actions?
- What does the subordination between First Cause and second causes look like?

## **EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-39**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Objection to Concurrentism**

#### **2. Objection #4: “The Problem of Subordination.”**

- This problem of subordination is only a problem in forms of Calvinism that reject free will and thus concurrentism. In those systems men are viewed like broken pens, with no free will, that God simply uses for “His Glory.”
- In such case God is the cause of the sin precisely because there is no free will. In other words without concurrentism (A= creature/man; B= God):

If action of agent A is in some way caused by another agent B,  
then A cannot be the true cause of the action.

The creature cannot be the true cause of its action.

God is the only true cause.

## **EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-39**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Objection to Concurrentism**

#### **2. Objection #4: “The Problem of Subordination.”**

- If God is the only cause then He is responsible for all sins. Furthermore, the First Cause would be so powerful that He would carry the secondary cause along with Him in whatever He wanted to—like the pen which is used by the woman and cannot chose otherwise.
- However, just because the 2c (2<sup>nd</sup> cause) cannot be its own first principle or mover and so the First Cause has more influence in the effect than the second cause as it takes 2c from potentiality to actuality, it does not follow that God’s concurrence excludes the real exercise of the 2c’s causal powers, with one of those powers being its freedom.

## **EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-39**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Objection to Concurrentism**

#### **2. Objection #4: “The Problem of Subordination.”**

- God offers His concurrence—or cooperation, as it is sometimes understood—to the creature in virtue of its acting, not in spite of it.
- God brings about E (effect) = God brings about that (if creature C wills so as to cause E, then E).

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

- #1, Matt. 5:3: Blessed are the **poor in spirit** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- #2, Blessed are those who **mourn** for they shall be comforted
- #3, Blessed are the **gentle** for they shall inherit the earth.
- #4, Blessed are those **who hunger and thirst for righteousness** for they shall be satisfied.
- #5, Blessed are the **merciful** for they shall receive mercy
- #6, Blessed are the **pure in heart** for they shall see God
- #7, Blessed are the **peacemakers** for they shall be called the sons of God
- #8, Blessed are **those who have been persecuted** for righteousness and because of Jesus Christ. Blessed are **you** when men cast insults at you, and persecute **you**, and say all kinds of evil against **you** falsely, on account of Me. 12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for **your reward (ὁ μισθός) in heaven** is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before **you**.

# The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

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

**God's Kingdom** (the need to be careful about terms like “kingdom people).”

1. The Kingdom of God is the great theme of the Scriptures. As it is used in the Scriptures, the term “Kingdom of God” refers to the rule of the sovereign God over His creation. There are 3 essential elements to the biblical idea: **ruler**, **realm**, and the **exercising of authority**. They are all found in

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. 12 "Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

2. There are manifold or multitudinous facets of the kingdom.
  - a. God is the eternal ruler over an everlasting kingdom (Psalms).
  - b. Christ encouraged His disciples to pray for the kingdom to come.
  - c. Daniel foretold a day when the kingdom would begin.
  - d. So Scriptures tell us that there is a kingdom now and yet there is an aspect of the kingdom that will not begin until a future time.
  - e. Furthermore, there is **a throne in heaven** where God rules *now* over all (Psa 103:19). Yet God will establish an earthly kingdom with a **throne in Jerusalem** (Zech 14:4-9).
  - f. Phrases such as “Kingdom of God” versus “Kingdom of Heaven” are often interchangeable. Matthew uses “Kingdom of Heaven” for Jews.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

3. Six aspects of the kingdom.
  - a. The universal kingdom of God: God's rulership over the entire universe.
  - b. The spiritual kingdom of God: God's rulership over believers only– from the time of Adam (Col. 1:13; John 3:1-10).
  - c. The theocratic kingdom of God: God's rulership over nation of Israel.
  - d. The mystery form of the kingdom of God: God's rulership over believers and unbelievers between the two advents of Christ, Matt. 13.
  - e. The millennial kingdom of God: Rulership of Jesus Christ after 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.
  - f. The eternal kingdom of God: God's Rulership over a new heaven and new earth after all other kingdoms have been destroyed.

1 Corinthians 15:24 then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

Blessed are those: 1) poor in spirit; 2) mourn; 3) gentle; 4) hunger and thirst for righteousness; 5) merciful; 6) pure in heart; 7) peacemakers, 8) the persecuted.

1. The setting: the people, the message, the Man, and the New Mount Sinai. Consider the contrasts with the first mountain of Sinai where God hid Himself in a cloud and God now sitting among His followers—Immanuel, God with us.
2. The form: Christ gives laws of the His kingdom by describing the virtues and blessedness of His people who follow Him. Such a description would certainly tear away any false motives or false illusions about the spiritual life. Christ is deliberately sifting out positive volition from negative volition, false motives from true motives.

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3. The foundation of all virtue is poverty of spirit. This is the narrow gate. The word rendered poor does not only signify one in a condition of want, but one who is aware of the condition, and seeks relief. The word refers to someone who is totally destitute, a beggar rather than a poor man.
4. So that to be poor in spirit is to have a deep conscious need with a sense of emptiness, dependence, and demerit before God. This is what happens when we see our true selves as blind, evil, and weak as vividly illustrated by the publican smiting his chest, the prodigal in the pig sty, and the once self-righteous Paul, exclaiming “O wretched man that I am.”

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5. Since all of the spiritual virtues are founded on poverty of spirit, theological liberals who love the Sermon but are vehemently opposed to the depravity of man, should take another look at this narrow entrance gate into the other beatitudes.
6. Christ's teachings are totally antithetical to the pagan doctrines of human self-esteem, or salvation or spirituality by works. The poor in spirit have cast off their pride and self-will and live a blessed life because they do not fight against God. They understand their need and live in appreciation of God's grace.

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7. Our single greatest enemy in life is always Pride. It truly is awful. What makes pride so pernicious is that
  - ✓ It is willful. It really is more about the will than the mind.
  - ✓ It violates the greatest commandment by turning it on its head.
  - ✓ It is against God and others.
  - ✓ God hates it, Prov. 6:16-17.
  - ✓ It is modern civilization's most fundamental evil.
  - ✓ It is the evil whereby God hands the person over to other sins, Rom. 1.
  - ✓ It blocks the grace of God, Js. 4:6-17.

For more on pride, see FBC website: <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-1.pdf>;  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-2.pdf>; <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-3.pdf>;  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-4.pdf>; <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-5.pdf>;  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-6.pdf>; <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-7.pdf>  
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<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-10.pdf>; <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-11.pdf>  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Pride-12.pdf>

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8. To overcome pride we must first recognize it, confess it, and remove it from our perspectives/attitudes:

Job 40:1 Then the LORD said to Job, 2 "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it." 3 Then Job answered the LORD and said, 4 "Behold, I am insignificant [קָלִילָתִי]; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth [humility].

Job 42:5 "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees Thee; 6 Therefore I retract (סָחַתְּךָ), And I repent (וַיִּנְחַמְתִּי) in dust and ashes."

Also see Ezra 9; Daniel 9; 1 Cor. 11:31; 1 John 1:9.

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9. Overcoming pride requires spiritual virtue that develop as one lives by God the Holy Spirit from a mindset of philosophical realism. Humility or poverty of spirit is produced when a believer lives with God.

Gal. 5:16-23 requires a mindset of philosophical realism. Apart from realism the believer will view this mechanically and superficially and will continue to flounder in his struggles rather than thrive under the HS.

Note how all of the aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit are antithetical to pride and arrogance: with love you do not live with MAS, with joy you do not think you deserve more, with peace you are not trying to outdo others; furthermore no proud person is patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, or has true self-control.

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10. To overcome pride, we must understand we are nothing but a product of His grace. We have absolutely nothing to boast about. God does not owe us anything. We are the debtors, not God.

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

✓ Paul wrote more epistles, developed more doctrine, suffered more hardships, than all of the other apostles combined. Yet he recognized that it was the grace of God that deserves all the credit. Apart from grace, Paul never would have been saved, let alone an ambassador for Christ par excellence. We must never take credit for who we are or what we are or have done as if was apart from God.

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11. To overcome pride, we must humble ourselves under the Word of God. This requires a mindset that really is into total truth as such.

James 1:21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, **in humility** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls [sanctification, salvation from the power of sin].

James 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and resides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed (μακάριος) in what he does.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

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12. To overcome pride, we all must submit to legitimate authority

- Romans 13:1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. 5 Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience ' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor is due.

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- Colossians 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them. 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart. 22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

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- Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

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13. To overcome pride, we must cast our cares on the Lord.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

- ✓ As long as we think we are going to solve the problems by ourselves without trusting God, we will cultivate pride. Pride always seeks to solve the problem apart from the norms and standards of God.
- ✓ When we worry, we doubt God and treat Him as if He is unworthy to be trusted. We must remember that God has it all worked out!

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

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14. To overcome pride, we must live our own lives before the Lord. This means to stop looking down on others. Don't let other lives distract you from the plan of God for you. Be what God wants you to be, this is the way to true spiritual self-esteem.

✓ Rom. 14:1-13.

✓ John 21:20-23.

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15. To overcome pride, we must make God the issue in our lives—not self, not others, and not the details of life.
- ✓ John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 "He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.
  - ✓ Jeremiah 9:23 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD

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✓ Philip. 3:8.

✓ 1 Cor. 1:31.

✓ Galatians 6:14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

✓ 2 Cor. 12:8-10

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16. Overcoming pride enables the believer to move into supergrace,

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. . . 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

Blessed are those: 1) poor in spirit; 2) **mourn**; 3) gentle; 4) hunger and thirst for righteousness; 5) merciful; 6) pure in heart; 7) peacemakers, 8) the persecuted.

### Those who mourn:

1. All mourning or sorrow is not blessed. Grief can make a man worse more often than better. Not all sorrow will receive comfort. The only sorrow that is blessed and receives comfort is the sorrow that flows from being poor in spirit. The comfort from God wiping about all sins.
2. He who sees the true measure of self cannot but sorrow over the awful gulf between what he should have done and been and what he is. The grim reality of sin couple with personal responsibility and guilt brings a sense of sorrow. Contrition often accompanies great recovery, Isa. 6; Matt. 16:21-26; Luke 22:61; 24:34.

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### The gentle or meek.

1. Meekness is characterized by grace orientation to all in in the midst of hatred, injustice, and antagonism. This is the opposite of anger and self-assertion and retaliation. It is not weakness, cf. Moses and Christ.
2. Meekness follows poverty of spirit and mourning in that he who knows his own evil will not be quick to condemn the evil of others.

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### **Hungering and thirsting for righteousness**

1. Hunger and thirst speak of passionate desires. All supergrace believers had this attitude. This is in contrast to hungering and thirsting for the carnal, greedy, and illicit things of this world, which always leave one unsatisfied and even disgusted when full of it.
2. The seeking of such righteousness demonstrates that it is not found in self.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

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### **Mercy**

1. Mercy is more than meekness. This is love and care for the needy, especially the unworthy who are needy. Mercy is charitable activity toward others. To be merciful is a blessing in itself for a life of selfishness is Hell.
2. Our mercy is but a reflection of our understanding of God's mercy to us..

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

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### Pure in heart

1. Purity of heart is a result of all that has gone before.
2. Such purity is progressive, and as it increases so does the vision of God grow. The heart that sets its eyes on impurity is too carnal and distracted to see the beauty of doctrine, the spiritual life and God.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

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### Peacemakers

1. Peacemakers are those who have gone through the experiences of the first six virtues.
2. The Christian peacemaker seeks to bring peace between men and God, as per reconciliation. As he moves about he seeks to share the peace he possesses with God in His own soul to others.

## The 8 Spiritual Virtues and Overcoming Pride

**Blessed are the:** 1) poor in spirit; 2) mourn; 3) gentle; 4) hunger and thirst for righteousness; 5) merciful; 6) pure in heart; 7) peacemakers, 8) **the persecuted.**

**The persecuted,** blessed?

1. What a paradox! Sounds like a contradiction! It is quite obvious that Jesus is not summoning men and women to a nice easy life. He is not offering men worldly honor; rather He is making it clear that they can expect scorn and suffering. He would be the first to feel the pain of twisted crown of thorns.
2. The truly persecuted suffer for righteousness which means they suffer for Christ. The Word of God and history testify to the elevation of virtue, joy, and closeness to God that always accompany those who suffer for Christ. Christ takes no recruits with false pretensions. Neither does any of his disciples, cf. Glenn Carnegiey.
3. Note the opposite of the beatitudes in Matthew 23.