

Biblical-Philosophical Psychology 116-Spiritual virtues 56 (Spiritual Hunger vs. Spiritual Apathy)

Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)

T/G/B

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
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- Christology
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Truth 32

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Our supreme good, the only thing that brings true meaning, joy, and ultimate delight in all things is loving God with all that we are and have (Matt. 22:37-40). All of our hearts, souls, and minds means that we are to love God intellectually as well as evocatively (Rev. 2:2-5; Psa. 42:1-2). We can see this in the intellectual and evocative literature of the Word of God.

This love for God is only possible because He loved us first (1 John 4:19). Since this a love that is in response to God's love, one has to behold the love of God before one can respond to God's love. Given the fact that God's love is intimately involved in everything in our lives for the direct purpose of drawing us to Him, our whole lives are opportunities to love Him in all things, to thank Him in all things (1 Thess. 5:18) and for all things (Eph. 5:20). It is in our difficulties that our impartial views of God and meaning of life have the best chance of being corrected.

The believer who been able to grow in his love relationship with God as *Esse* does not find himself in a frantic search for a spiritual shot in the arm. He lives, loves, and worships God daily. He comes to Bible class to fulfill His Lord's desire to gather with believers & to add to his understanding of God and Reality as such.

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-45

Concurrentism

1. Divine Concurrence.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things** (φέρων τε τὰ πάντα) by the word of His power.

- ❖ Action: Divine concurrence is all about *action*. It is God's dynamic action in and with all things. It does not work on things or over things. The action is deep within all things and with all things.
- ❖ The mode: The action is not univocal. Again, God is not working on things, over things, or pushing things around. He is deep in all things giving all beings existence. To give existence to anything necessitates giving action of being, properties, and activities. God is the Efficient Cause of all things.
- ❖ The present participle points to His nature and the continuous activity. As far as His nature, the activity is going to be according to His being.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-45

Concurrentism

2. The importance of gaining a conceptual map to grasp total reality and the action of God, which is what concurrence is all about, in all things. Divine concurrence is all about divine action throughout the created world. We desperately need to unlock this activity throughout our world. Our view of God's activity in the world deeply affects our understanding of God.
3. Consider Sir Arthur Eddington's analogy of the ichthyologist who, after carefully studying ocean life using a net that could catch nothing smaller than two inches, solemnly concluded that "no sea creature is less than two inches long."
4. Consider the Radiologist's ability to see an aspect of reality in an x-ray.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-45

Concurrentism

5. Consider the crucial concepts, the building blocks in the language of causality, that you have now have been exposed to that will enable you to see Reality filled with God's action. These are some of the tools you need in your mental toolbox to see clearly see God "through the things made," the nature of
- efficient causality,
 - primary and secondary causes creating one effect,
 - subordination,
 - existence vs. essence,
 - radical contingency,
 - teleology,
 - purposes,
 - modes,
 - substances,
 - ontological and epistemological categories,
 - transcendent force,
 - univocal forces,
 - forms vs. what is quantifiable (the physical), and
 - final causality (cf., biology).

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-45

Concurrentism

6. The net of scientism will not work. As a matter of fact, scientism is not science at all. It is not only totally implausible, it is self-defeating. It rejects metaphysics, yet it is a metaphysical position that boldly claims that there is nothing outside its powers of explanation—i.e., that there is nothing beyond the physical.

7. Humean, Kantian, and Baconian nets will not work. They all reject forms of causality, which are manifestly an aspect of reality. Yet the majority of Christians adopt these men's worldviews regarding the created world (cf., skepticism, agnosticism, scientism, and the shifting of causality as an ontological reality to a property of thought, epistemological reality).

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-45

Concurrentism

8. By the time we finish the 50 classes on concurrentism you will have been exposed to all of the basic concepts necessary to see God in all things. Then, we will be back in Matthew 6 to develop divine concurrence in more detail and then we move to Romans 8:28 where we will continue to unlock the nature of God's actions in all things, and how God's action works in things like miracles and prayer.

9. It is crucial to recognize that the distinction between univocal causes (Newtonian) and analogous causes in order to avoid the errors of reducing God to the level of a creature or diminish either God's causality or the proper causality of creatures.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-45

Concurrentism

10. Divine and creature causality (important concepts).
 - a. No creaturely effect can occur without God's influence.
 - b. God creates the creature's causality.
 - c. God's causality cannot diminish or distort the causality of the creature since it is its very source.
 - d. God does whatever creatures do; and yet creatures themselves do whatever they do.
 - e. It is a question of understanding how one and the same effect can proceed simultaneously from two different causes: God and the natural agent which produces it.
 - f. If we think of God and creatures as belonging to the same univocal order of causality, any assertion that God can act in the world without distorting or modifying the proper causality of creatures will appear hopelessly incoherent. It would be like that six men carrying a boat and each carry its entire weight since the causality of one does not effect the causality of the other.
 - g. The need to understand God's transcendent causation in actualizing.

Spiritual Virtue: Christ's 8 Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12)

1. **μακάριοι** are the **poor in spirit**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. **μακάριοι** are those **who mourn**: for they shall be comforted
3. **μακάριοι** are the **gentle**: for they shall inherit the earth.
4. **μακάριοι** are **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**: for they shall be satisfied.
5. **μακάριοι** are the **merciful**: for they shall receive mercy.
6. **μακάριοι** are the **pure in heart**: for they shall see God.
7. **μακάριοι** are the **peacemakers**: for they shall be called sons of God.
8. **μακάριοι** are those **who have been persecuted** for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 **μακάριοι** 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 in heaven is great**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

❖ Consider the great privilege of being able to study and gain insights into this sermon of the Lord because of the preservation of Scripture, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the completion of the rest of Scripture.

Spiritual Hunger vs. Spiritual Apathy

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

Hungering and thirsting for righteousness οἱ πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες τὴν δικαιοσύνην

1. It is in this fourth virtue that the believer really moves into being filled and fulfilled, to live a fulfilled life. There is no fulfillment in life apart from divine righteousness. Satan opposes all spiritual virtues; consider common misperceptions about these virtues that he has promulgated.

Spiritual Hunger vs. Spiritual Apathy

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

2. Imagine, if only for a moment, what life would be like with more righteousness in our lives, which is only possible when there is a hunger and thirst for it.
 - a. With respect to God.
 - b. With respect to others.
 - c. With respect to self.
 - d. With respect to life itself.

Spiritual Hunger vs. Spiritual Apathy

3. Scriptural references on divine hungering and thirsting for righteousness; note the accompanying virtues of poverty of spirit and genuine humility: Proverbs; Matt. 6:25-34; Luke 1:38, 46-55; Philip. 3:3-14; 1 Cor. 9:24-27.
4. Scriptural references on the lack of hungering and thirsting for righteousness, i.e., spiritual complacency, also known spiritual sloth: 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Rev. 3:14-22; Heb. 5:11-6:12; 2 Pet. 1:5, 10: 2:20-22; James 1:8; 4:8.

Spiritual sloth: the lack of hunger and thirst for righteousness.

1. Either a believer is hungry and thirsty for God's righteousness or he has little to no appetite for God and the things of God. He is either actively seeking God or does not have an appetite for the things of God. Simply seeking God for provisions is not truly seeking God; it certainly is not the Christian view—it is pagan.
2. If one has no appetite for God, then he will not seek God. He will become spiritually slothful regarding righteousness, God, and the spiritual life.
3. Spiritual sloth, that lack of spiritual hunger and thirst for righteousness, is what uniquely sets off our modern world from all other cultures in the history of man. Modern man is slothful toward God because God is dead to Him—so man is left to live and die without meaning, purpose, or value, and that is the end of it.

Spiritual sloth: the lack of hunger and thirst for righteousness.

4. Modernity's spiritual complacency, lukewarmness, apathy, is sickening to Christ and deadly to the believer's spiritual life with God (Rev. 3:16). As a sin, it falls in the category of a sin of omission. Specifically, its essence is more evil rather than merely sinful.
5. Spiritual sloth is not to be confused with laziness in general or lack of energy for physical activity. Rather, it is a *spiritual* inertness due to lack of interest in God and the things of God.

Spiritual sloth: the lack of hunger and thirst for righteousness.

6. Spiritual sloth is always accompanied by a hunger for the kosmos, cf. 1 Cor. 10. Consider our busy, anxious, fast-moving, success-worshipping, performance-oriented, materialistic society, and Martha-type Christianity. Consider the empty busyness of those who attempt to fill the hole in the foundation of their existence with stuff.
7. The spiritually slothful person rarely considers the greatest questions of life: Where did I come from? Why am I here? and Where am I going? In spiritual sloth a person denies his most primary need, the need for meaning, which causes a frantic activism. By the way, science is totally unable to give meaning, pointing to its bankruptcy regarding total reality.

Spiritual sloth: the lack of hunger and thirst for righteousness.

8. The reason that spiritual sloth has always been considered such a horrible sin (mortal sin) is because it is a spiritual sin. It is a sin against the cardinal virtues of faith, hope, and love. It is a sin directly against God Himself. It does not find God or the things of God worthy or attractive. In fact, it is the most diabolic of all sins.
9. Spiritual sloth pervasively destroys the entire spiritual life. It removes spiritual vitality by robbing believers of their appetite for God, their zest for God, and love for the Word of God. The saltiness is removed from the believer and the light that is in him becomes darkness.

Spiritual sloth: the lack of hunger and thirst for righteousness.

10. One of the things that makes sloth so dark and deadly is that it is a lukewarm,, not hot or cold. It is not so much rebellion against God, but indifference. It is much easier to recover from anger at God than recover from indifference toward God, just as it is much easier to go from immorality to morality than from amorality to morality.

Spiritual sloth: the lack of hunger and thirst for righteousness.

11. As a result of boredom of God that accompanies spiritual sloth, one will always fasten his *love* on the things of kosmos diabolicus. The believer becomes involved in illicit love and sublimations to fill cravings in his soul that only God can fill. The only thing that never gets boring: God. The God-shaped vacuum in us is infinite and cannot be filled with any finite objects or actions. Therefore if we are bored with God, we are bored with everything else.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

More on the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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.

Mercy

Mercy is more than meekness. This is love and care for the needy, especially the needy who are unworthy. To be merciful is a blessing in itself.

- ✓ James 2:13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.
- ✓ Mat 6:15 "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

More on the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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. Purity of heart is a result of the foregoing virtues. Such purity is progressive, and as it increases so does the vision of God. The heart that sets its eyes on impurity is too carnal and distracted to see the beauty of doctrine, the spiritual life and God.
 - ✓ Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
 - ✓ 1Jo 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
 - ✓ Tit 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

More on the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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.

Peacemakers

Peacemakers are those who have gone through the experiences of the foregoing six virtues. The Christian peacemaker seeks to bring peace between men and God, as per reconciliation. He seeks to share the peace and grace he possesses with God to others.

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

More on the 8 Spiritual Virtues

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. Of course, He would be the first to feel the pain of scorn and twisted crown of thorns.
 - ✓ 2 Timothy 3:12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
 - ✓ John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

An overview of Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

1. There is a form of Christ's kingdom that exists during our Church Age. While the epistles speak of a future earthly Davidic kingdom (2 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 25:1-46) and a future eternal kingdom (2 Tim. 4:18), the most common reference to kingdom is the present mystery form of the kingdom in the church age.

Colossians 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.

Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

2. Christ gave many directives for our present mystery form of kingdom in the parables.

On the use of wealth, see Luke 12:16-21; 16:1-13, 19-31. The mandates are all related to short term verses long term goals.

On faithfulness, see Luke 12:42-48. He makes it clear that privilege brings responsibility and that responsibility entails accountability.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

On humility, see Luke 14:7-11. Christ warned against seeking preeminence for oneself. True honor is not what one confers on self.

Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

3. Satan also has a kingdom that is in active rebellion against the kingdom of God. From the time he fell, he has been entirely opposed to God's authority.

2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

4. Characteristics of Satan's kingdom.

- Lawlessness and rebellion against the authority of God, 2 Thess. 2:4.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

- Darkness rather than light. This darkness refers not only to ignorance but to evil and wickedness.

Colossians 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Christ's Kingdom vs. Satan's Kingdom

5. Characteristics of Satan's kingdom.

- Deceit and deception.

Revelation 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

- Hostility against Christians

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.