

Biblical-Philosophical Psychology 160-Spiritual virtues 100 (Beatitude #6: Purity of Heart and the Will.22)

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
Natural Theology

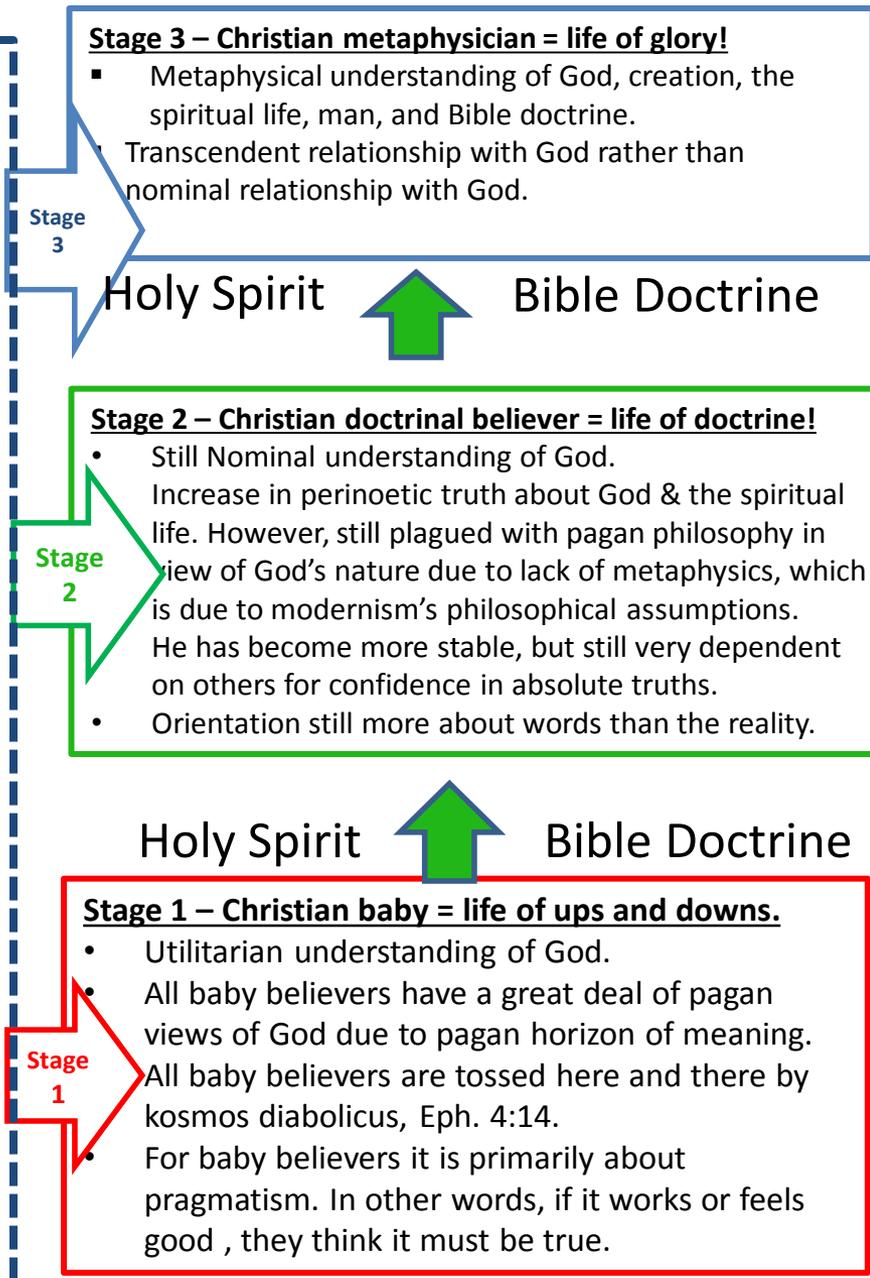
5: Hermeneutics
4: Linguistics
3: Epistemology 32
- Existence 50
- Causation 16
2:Metaphysics 32
- Trans. 50
1: Reality
- Logic 32,
- Truth 32

P.R. - 32

John 8:32; Luke 10:27; Ro. 5:1-5. 3 parts to Bible class (1) Modern “isms” that destroy the SL; (2) Realism: review & Descartes (3) Bible on love, intellect and will.

The point of going through these various “isms” is to deal with present dangers to our spiritual lives that bombard us daily. I don’t care how many times we confess your sins, read our Bibles, or listen to Bible doctrine, these “isms” will corrupt, pervert and ultimately destroy our spiritual lives and love for God because they destroy the proper ordering of the intellect and will.

Today we look at hedonism: (1) distinction between hedonism & enjoying pleasure/comfort, (2) hedonism capitalizes on natural desires, (3) in hedonism values, goals, good, and truth are *determined* by pleasure vs. pain calculus, (4) can be traced back to Garden of Eden, and wine gods Bacchus and Dionysius and sexual licentiousness in pagan religions, (5) the hedonistic paradox and the Epicureans—from lips to hips, (6) though many live in FSH, virtually no one admits it, (7) it is contrary to Christianity, which teaches that its values may include pain, (8) obviously Christ was no hedonist when He went to the Cross, which was the true, good, beautiful and painful thing to do—hedonists would call Christ a fool, (9) hedonism is non-altruistic, (10) modern forms of hedonism: alcohol, pot, drugs, divorce, same sex marriage, licentiousness, “if it feels good, do it,” in churches it is manifested where truth is measured by feelings, cf. Christian song “how can it be wrong if it feels so good?” (11) transcendent is removed, and (12) even though the Christian life is not about seeking maximum pleasure, the fact is that we are destined for the maximum pleasure & goodness, however this pleasure is defined very differently from what we find in



Causation 16 (Review and introduction into Descartes)

1. God's essence is His existence (cf. Exod. 3:14). Since essence always limits existence, and God does not have a separate essence from His existence, He is
 - a. unlimited
 - b. the ultimate Person

2. To build your metaphysics on Esse is to build your metaphysics on being and the transcendent first principles of thought (the law of identity and non-contradiction) and thus on
 - a. external reality
 - b. logical mental constructs about God

3. Meaning is grounded in
 - a. reality, which is metaphysics
 - b. words, word studies, systems that sound and make one feel good

4. In Romans 1 there is a vast catalogue of vices from being unthankful to God to sexual licentiousness, culminating in people calling evil good and good evil. This can all be traced back to
- a. Not being raised in a good Christian home
 - b. Not seeing knowledge of God fit to retain and treasure
 - c. A conscious, hostile, and aggressive attitude against God
 - d. An indifferent attitude toward the knowledge of God
5. It is a category mistake to view or classify God in a human moral categories.
- a. True
 - b. False
6. Once one stops doing metaphysics, he will always end up in some form of idealism.
- a. True
 - b. False

7. In secularism, the disorder of the intellect and will is *primarily* with regard to
___ a. time (the here and now)
___ b. things (religious vs. secular things)
8. In existentialism, the disorder of the intellect and will is due to
___ a. the idea that “existence precedes essence”
___ b. being true to your inherent essence
9. In humanism, the disorder of the intellect and will is due to
___ a. making “man the measure of all things” (*homo mensura*)
___ b. caring too much about fellow human beings (humanitarianism)
10. In pragmatism, the disorder of the intellect and will is due to
___ a. defining truth as that which works and feels good
___ b. correspondence truth, reality as such

11. All created things have four causes. Take a kitten:
- a. Formal cause: what it is, a kitten; the shape and organizing principle.
 - b. Material cause: its flesh, fur, and material parts.
 - c. Efficient cause: its birth.
 - d. Final cause: fully actualized cat with all characteristics of a thriving cat.

12. What are the 4 causes in an acorn.

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|---------------------|---|
| ___ Formal cause | a. To be an oak tree |
| ___ Material cause | b. Its generation from oak tree |
| ___ Efficient cause | c. An acorn; its organizing principle |
| ___ Final cause | d. Starch, protein, fat, minerals, etc. |

13. Rene Descartes (1596-1650) is the “father of modern philosophy.” He is very influential in society and in Christianity, including the doctrinal movement. One of his most pernicious influences is basing reality on thinking rather than beginning with the external world. Mark with T (true) or F (false):
- a. With “I think, therefore, I exist,” he ushers in rationalism and idealism
 - b. By basing reality on the mind, he shatters man’s unity as a knower and he creates a foundation for skepticism, perspectivalism, relativism, and doctrines built on idealism and preference rather than reality.
 - c. By removing formal & final causation from nature, nature is random, which provides intellectual space for deism and atheism
 - d. He mathematized reality, which gave us great scientific progress
 - e. He set out to put knowledge on absolute certain foundation
 - f. He placed the human soul in the pineal gland
 - g. He mechanized the human body
 - h. His desire was to make man masters of nature
 - i. He disproved Realism
 - j. He is why so many today hate modern philosophy
 - k. He creates the modern mind-body problem
 - l. He was a rationalist
 - m. He was an empiricist

THE WILL 22: By knowledge (intellect) and by love (will)

1. 2 Tim. 4:6-10. Love is the driving principle in both virtue and sin, cf., Paul and Demas. What a beautiful attitude on the part of the apostle Paul, one which every believer should have when it is his time to leave this place.
 - a. Rightly ordered love is the source of every virtue. Every spiritually virtuous person loves the good, 2 Tim. 4:8. Also note the other theological virtues of faith and hope in 2 Tim. 4:16-18. Note the power of Paul's the theological virtues of faith, hope and love. Love is the greatest and most powerful force inside a man. Nothing like supernatural love to change the way a man thinks about anything. It is far more powerful than his past sins, failure, and influences.
 - b. Disordered love is the source of every sin and evil. It is disordered love that brings inordinate desires, 2 Tim. 4:10.

THE WILL 22: By knowledge (intellect) and by love (will)

2. Love is all about the two most important attributes of human beings: the intellect and the will.
 - a. The intellect is designed for rightly ordered knowledge: wisdom.
 - b. The will is designed for rightly ordered love: love for the Good.
 - c. Both the intellect and the will work together; they depend on each other, and influence each other.

3. The virtue of rightly ordered love.
 - a. While love takes place in the will, the will is dependent upon the intellect. You cannot love what you do not know, even though love can surpass what is known, Eph. 3:19.
 - b. The goal is to have rightly order intellect/knowledge (wisdom) and rightly ordered will (love for the Good).
4. To have rightly ordered knowledge and rightly ordered will for true love, we must understand what love is. False knowledge of love will lead to false desires about love. It is very easy to be an idealist when it comes to love.

5. It is crucial to understand that **meaning must always be based on reality, i.e., is metaphysics**. The meaning of love is not based on word studies, preferences, society or mental constructs. Summary of the basic reality of love: Gen. 22:2; 24:67; 25:28; 27:4, 9, 14; 29:18, 30, 32; 34:3; 37:3-4; Exod. 20:6; Matt. 6:24; 1 John 2:15-16; 3:16-19; 1 Cor. 13.

6. God provides the Holy Spirit to supernaturally raise up the intellect and will so the intellect can obtain wisdom of God and the will the love for God. This is the perfecting of the intellect and will. The Holy Spirit dwells in and enlightens and enhances the intellect and the will. This enlightening of the intellect and bringing His inclination on the will makes it possible to enjoy possess the 3 theological virtues, 1 Thess. 1:2-10. The ministry of the Holy Spirit always takes place in the concurrence of fellowship, Bible studies, and prayer. A look at the activity of the Holy Spirit on the intellect and will.

- Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. -
- Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
- Colossians 2:2 . . . having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself,
- John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;
- Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.
- Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.
- 1 John 3:24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
- 1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 13:13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
- Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

THE WILL 22: By knowledge (intellect) and by love (will)

7. Demas: False thinking (mind) and disordered love (will) are the co-principles of all sinful and evil action. The only solution is to have true thinking and right ordered affections. All sin implies some ignorance of the true good. It is all about having the proper objects of thought and will. This is what virtue is all about.
8. The Holy Spirit's ministry is designed to raise the intellect and will to know and love God, to find God as our Ultimate Good and Happiness, to love God above all things.
9. We attain our ultimate end "by knowing and by loving God." Our immaterial intellects and will are never fulfilled in the finite things of this world. Our intellects and will are designed for God as their ultimate objects.

THE WILL 22: By knowledge/mind & by love/will

10. Best-friendship love with God is the greatest human paradigm for loving God, John 15:13.
 - a. Friendship love involves willingness for self-sacrifice, John 15:13; Rom. 12:1; 2 Tim. 4:6; James 2:23; Gen. 22; Heb. 11.
 - b. Friendship love requires right knowledge and desire. With the intellect we apprehend and evaluate the goodness, with the will we choose and act.
 - c. Friends know, trust and love one another. Mutual confidence binds best friends, true lovers. Suspicion kills friendships.

THE WILL 22: By knowledge/mind & by love/will

- d. Friends have frank and regular conversations with each other.

Gen. 18:17: “Shall I hide from Abraham the thing I will do?” (Gen. 18:17) .

Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up (ἐποικοδομοῦντες) on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit

- e. Friends delight to meet each other's wishes. Abraham delighted to offer up his son to meet God's wishes, fully trusting God. Did not God meet Abraham's wishes?

THE WILL 22: By knowledge/mind & by love/will

- e. Friends stand up for each others.

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

- f. God, like any other person, is either our friend, enemy, or nothing. We may love Him, hate Him, or be absolutely indifferent. However, indifference always turns to hatred as He does intrude into all of our lives.
- g. Loving God means loving Him above all things and seeing Him as our Ultimate Good, both in fellowship in time and as our Final Goal after we leave this life.