

**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

**P.R. - 32**

Hermeneutics
Linguistics
<b>Epistemology 7</b>
Metaphysics -32 Trans. 50
Reality –Logic 32, Truth 32

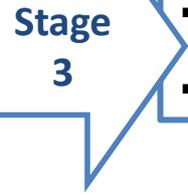
10/31/2013

**Any questions?**

**1. FBC and the Bible:** 1 Thessalonians 5:21, *But examine everything; hold to that which is the good.* How PR/TT/WT can free us from the myth that the believer cannot understand his Bible. How did we get here, considering that the Bible is perfectly designed?— examining, & rejecting teachings of PTs.

**2. FBC, Truth, and church movements.** How PR/TT/WT can freed us from Neo-orthodoxy, neo-Evangelicalism, Existentialism, and Fundamentalism. A great many believers have mixtures of these false philosophies. A word about God’s people and our nation under judgment.

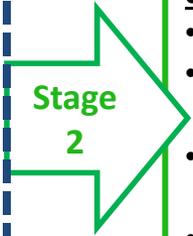
**3. FBC on salvation and sanctification (the SL).** The importance of understanding the distinction between forensic eternal salvation and temporal sanctification salvation. The former is highlighted in Romans and the latter is emphasized in James and Hebrews. The former is extrinsic or “alien” while the latter is intrinsic and constitute spiritual virtue.



**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”

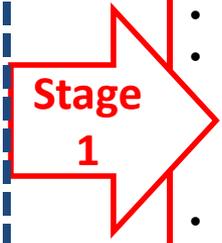
Holy Spirit Bible Doctrine



**Stage 2 – 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 – 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: #7: Cartesian causation problems (from man to science, creation, and Reality)**

1. God's mind and philosophical realism of the Bible.
  - Throughout the Bible there is one philosophy from the One Mind.
  - It is expressed through all human writers of the Bible, e.g., farmers, philosophers, fishermen. From different walks of life, but they all have the same mindset of PR.
  - The entire Word of God hangs together in PR, unlike the myriad of philosophies of man.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #7: Cartesian causation problems (from man to science, creation, and Reality)

2. The Cartesian nightmare fails biblically, anthropologically, epistemologically, empirically, and scientifically.
  - Biblically, note how exegesis in the original languages alone does not free one from the Cartesian nightmare.
  - Anthropologically, Cartesians fails on all accounts.
  - Scientifically, Cartesianism leads to naturalism, which fails empirically, and scientifically (no infinite regress, the whole universe is interconnected).
  - In spite of the failure on all accounts, many believers are Cartesian in their view of the Bible, creation, and man: they *believe* in naturalism, even though such a view is absolutely bankrupt on both *biblical* and *scientific* grounds.

3. Descartes, however, to his credit, did come to understand the truth of concurrentism with regard to all beings.

“The same power and action are needed to preserve anything at each individual moment of its duration as would be required to create that thing anew if it were not yet in existence. Hence the distinction between preservation and creation is only a conceptual one.”

4. Aquinas on causation hundreds of years before Descartes.

“The cause of a thing must needs be the same as the cause of its preservation, because preservation is nothing else than its continued being.”

5. The need to break the curse of physicalism, which is only possible through 'Ehyeh metaphysics and realistic science.
  - a. To grasp 'Ehyeh metaphysics your mind must advance to thinking of existence as a act, a verb, instead of a thing like a noun.
  - b. Whether something exists makes all the difference. There is a difference between philosophical thinking and erroneous thinking of naturalists in physics as per virtual particles.
  - c. All created things are composed of esse + essence (form and matter). Esse is an act of existence.
  - d. It is *esse* as an act that makes something real and stand out of non-being. It is what fills essence.

- e. Balloon illustration.
- f. Music illustration.
- g. God as 'Ehyeh has no form to limit His existence. There is no essence/existence distinction with God.
- h. After all of the heavy lifting and philosophical dead-ends, Esse-metaphysics answers all questions regarding underlying Reality. And it is all based on the very name of God, a verb of existence in Exodus 3:14.
- i. My love for philosophical realism has more to do with its ability to allow me to understand Reality, God, and the Bible, than simply demonstrating the fallaciousness of physicalism. It is unfortunate that Christians have more faith in naturalism than logical proofs for the existence of God.

# Man – from salvation to sanctification

MIND



WILL

Romans 12 -16 = Spiritual Virtues

LOVE Intellective love  
Sense love

1. We are examining the 37 virtues of Romans 12. We have been given our marching orders from God regarding Him, others, and society in general.
  - Virtues of dedicating self to God.
  - Virtues of humility
  - Virtues of love.
2. All spiritual virtues only come from God Himself. You cannot be a self-made Christian. It is about being a God-made believer.



Mental states,  
Affections  
&  
Passions

“Emotions” is a  
Cartesian and  
Darwinian  
concept.

## Structure of Romans 12

- **Virtues 1-4: Ultimate spiritual virtue: Give your life to God, Rom. 12:1-2.** An important conceptual distinction needs to be made between pursuing God and Bible doctrine. Consider how many just stop with verse 2.
- 1) Present** your bodies = dedicating your whole life to God. God does not just want a slice of your, your Sunday morning life.
  - 2) Stop being conformed** this age = refusing to be conformed to this evil age. You can try to be a self-made person or a God-made person. Most Christians are not much different than Christians as far as mammon is concerned.
  - 3) Be transformed** by the renewing of the mind = dedicate your mind to God.
  - 4) Approve** of the perfect will of God = live for the will of God. Consider the change in Church Colson after regeneration.

## Structure of Romans 12

### ➤ Virtues 5-7: Spiritual virtues of genuine humility

5) **Don't think too highly** of yourself. No one deserves anything, we are all sinners.

6) **Have sober judgment** about yourself (in relation to others).

7) **Serve others** with your spiritual gift. The Bible knows nothing of a Lone Ranger Christianity:

➤ Gifts: all gifts can be divided into speaking and serving gifts

- Prophecy (this was a sign gift, it no longer exists)
- Service – gifts of service or helping
- **Teaching** – in addition to gift of pastor-teacher
- **Exhorting**—give for encouragement and comfort
- **Giving** –ministry of material goods, like food and clothing for those who are in need, a cheerful giver
- **Leading**—belongs to those in spiritual authority, pastors and deacons.
- **Mercy**—compassionate love of Christ.

## ➤ Virtues 8-37: Spiritual virtues related to supernatural love

8) Genuine Love (γενέσθω). Only genuine love is a spiritual 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

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- 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!**

## Virtues #1-#4: Life dedicated to God

### Man's need for God, first and foremost.

- The distinction between pursuing God and pursuing doctrine.
- Pursuing God, dedicating life to God
  - 1) Present your body/life.
  - 2) Reject the world
  - 3) Transform your mind
  - 4) Understand, pursue and love the will of God

## **Virtues #5-#7: genuine humility, Rom. 12:3-8.**

### **The problem of pride:**

1. Pride is the most pernicious sin that we deal with on a daily basis. It cannot be removed apart from giving your whole life to God. It is impossible to have true humility apart from proper orientation to God (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 5:1-7). There are no exceptions.

## The problem of pride

2. The nature of pride and making a conceptual distinction between intellectual sins (pride, sloth, hate) and somatic sins (gluttony, lust of the flesh, 1 Thess. 4).
  - While both involve the intellect, those sins which are primarily incited by the intellect are the most evil and pernicious.

## The problem of pride

3. What makes pride so dangerous is that it prevents one from gaining more grace (phase 2 grace) and strength from God. It is pride that blocks all spiritual growth (1 Cor. 3; 2 Tim. 2:14) and hence greater grace:

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

## **Virtues #8-37 are all related to Christian love.**

- Christian love comes only from Christ and only through God the Holy Spirit. It is the truest and greatest love that ever came to this world.
- The love of Christ can be seen in Him taking on human nature, dying for the sins of the wicked world, kissing the traitor Judas, suffering the soldiers' punches and praying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," as they crucified Him. A love that culminated with Him bearing all of the wickedness of man, and giving sinning believers His righteousness, 2 Cor. 5:21.
- So if you want to know what the love of God looks like, look at the Cross.
- Such love is not mere pity or a general benevolent wish.
- No one can possess this love apart from the grace of God.

## 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]** (φιλόστοργοι τῇ φιλαδελφίᾳ), 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. While I don't think I will ever get used to it, I tend not to take it so personal as I once did.
  - 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 among Christians. It is the sin that so clearly distinguishes modern Western society from all previous societies.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

### 3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- Spiritual sloth should not be confused with general laziness. Generally, these people are frantically busy with their Martha-like world—cf., the frantic activism in 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*.
- 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.
- It is a sin of omission, not commission. There is little to no acting seeking God or His will in prayer or in the Word.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

### 3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- 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.
- Stops man from seeking God, thus finding God.
- Causes the salt to lose its saltiness. It tends to be amoral instead of immoral.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

### 3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- Has 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?

## 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?

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 crowning 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.