

**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

**Epistemology 8**

Metaphysics -32  
 Trans. 50

Reality –Logic 32,  
 Truth 32

11/14/2013

**1. TT, the believer and personal grounding in the Bible . 1**  
 Thessalonians 5:27 *I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.* A few words about the view from standing on the shoulders of R.B. Thieme and Dr. Carnagey.

**2. TT, the believer, and church history:** e.g., neo-Orthodoxy, neo-Evangelicalism, Existentialism, Mysticism, Platonism, Fundamentalism, Pragmatism, Catholicism, Reformationism, Fideism, Religionism, WOF, and even Bible churches understood from TT.

**3. TT, the believer, and the spiritual life.** The need for TT for a robust SL in understanding the nature of God, creation, man, 2<sup>nd</sup> personal with God, metaphysics, OSN, FHS, & the nature and need of progressive development of virtue where the believer increasingly loves the TGB, loses appetite for evil as he progressively grows in the virtue of Jesus Christ.

**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: #8, The Grammar and Logic of Existence

1. Grasping existence is a major step in curing philosophical blindness.
  - Philosophical blindness that keeps Christians from gaining a deep understanding of the nature God, creation, the spiritual life as well as the true nature of science.
  - Philosophical blindness makes it impossible to see God with certainty from creation, Rom. 1:18-20 3
  - Philosophical blindness destroys the capacity of the believer to resonate with total truth; he only tunes in to existential truths.
  - Grasping existence is one of the most powerful ways to advance in the philosophical realism of the Bible the wonders of God, life, and creation from the quantum to the macro level. It also exposes the merits as well as the myths of modern science.

2. The fact that you are continuing to advance in this study demonstrates that as a Christian you
- do not come to church to be entertained
  - do not come to church thinking “what’s in it for *me*?”
  - do not come to church to get “temporal” solutions
  - do not come with an existential, anti-intellectual, or functional mindset
  - expect to be taught TT
  - have confidence about the realism of the metaphysics of the Bible
  - desire to become a Realist
  - want to learn TT and think for yourself about TT
  - are a philosopher in the highest sense
  - are a lover of wisdom
  - interested in moving beyond the world of nominalism
  - are interested in truth as such
  - are really interested in God and Total Truth as such

### 3. Logic of language and logic of existence/being.

- Existence (“to be”) is not captured by a noun therefore cannot be captured by a concept.
- Existence is not captured by the subject or the predicate *itself*. Neither the subject nor the predicate can capture the act of existing as such. If they did then they would entail existence in themselves. However, this is manifestly false.

### 3. Logic of existence/being.

- Existence is captured by the verb “to be,” which the mind knows as an actual being.
- It is not in the subject or in the predicate, but in the copula.
- The verb “to be” does act as a coupling link between subject and predicate, but only because it has a more fundamental meaning in reality of its own, and this being is “to be in act” —to exist.
- When I say that John is, the “is” designates the existing of John in reality. When I state that “John is a man”, the “is” signifies the existence of humanity in John.

### 3. Logic of existence/being.

- While existence escapes conceptualization, it does not escape knowledge, because knowledge is always of being, of that which is in some order.
- Having exposed the fallaciousness of Cartesian and Platonic dualism, the true nature of man, the distinction between essence and existence, the basic nature of existence as a participle and not a concept like a noun, either subject or predicate, we are now ready to move into a little more detail on the *GRASP OF EXISTENCE*.

# Man – from salvation to sanctification

MIND

WILL

Romans 12 -16 = Spiritual Virtues

VIRTUE Intellective love  
Sense love

## We are examining the 37 spiritual virtues of Romans 12

1. Verses 1-4: the Preeminent and ground of all spiritual virtues = dedication to God.
2. Verses 4-8: From the virtue of dedication to God flows virtues of genuine humility.
3. Verses 9-21: From the virtue of genuine humility flow the virtues of authentic spiritual love.



Mental states,  
Affections  
&  
Passions

“Emotions” is a  
Cartesian and  
Darwinian  
concept.

## Structure of Romans 12

- **Virtues 1-4: Ultimate spiritual virtue: Dedication to God, Rm. 12:1-2.**
  - 1) **Present** your bodies to God.
  - 2) **Stop being conformed** to this age.
  - 3) **Be transformed** by the renewing of the mind.
  - 4) **Discern/Approve** of the good, enjoyable, and perfect will of God.

**Can a man be righteous and reject these 4 cardinal virtues?**

**What is the difference between forensic righteousness which is not ours and virtue righteousness which is part of us?**

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

**Abraham illustrates all 1-4 above, especially 1 and 4.**

- God's command to sacrifice Isaac is a test of Abraham's commitment to the goodness of God.
- Abraham only passes the test if he believes that in obeying God, he is not giving up Isaac.
- The test was to deal with Abraham's double-mindedness about God's goodness.
- The faith of Abraham is a personal commitment to God, as someone who is really good and so keeps His promises in a relationship of love. God gives Abraham the desires of his heart, but in a form far better than he would have known without full commitment to God.
- All tests are designed to move the believer into second-personal relationship with God and seeing Him and His plan as the Ultimate Good.
- Abraham was saved in Genesis 15 but became a friend of God in Gen 22, this reflects the nature of progressive sanctification.

## Structure of Romans 12

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

- 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.

**Could a Christian who was prideful and arrogant be righteous?**

**Could a Christian not care about others and still be righteous?**

**What is the difference between external righteousness and internal righteousness.**

**What is the difference between isolated acts of goodness and virtue?**

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

8) Genuine Love (γενέσθω). The virtue of love, the greatest 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

**Would a person who did the opposite of all of these be righteous?**

**Compare with 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Is it possible that these individuals are righteous? What is the difference between acts and virtue?**

- 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!**

## Principles on virtue

1. All spiritual virtues are grounded in the very character of God, Matt. 5:48; 2 Cor. 8:7-9; Eph. 4:32; 5:1; Philip 2:5-11; 1 Pet. 2:22-24; 2 Pet. 1:2-11; James 2:5-8; 1 John 4:8.
  - Matthew 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
  - Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;
  - 1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

## Principles on virtue

2. God's mandates are derived from His character. God issues commands that He does because He is the kind of God that He is. For example:
  - God commands that we love our neighbors, ultimately because He is that kind of God, 1 Jn 4:8—which certainly precludes Him from being a capricious God who actively creates certain people for the direct and sole purpose of sending them to Hell.
  - God mandates that we be forgiving people not primarily because forgiveness restores relationships, but because God is fundamentally a forgiving God, Eph. 4:32.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

## Principles on virtue

- God commands that we be generous because God is generous, 2 Cor. 8:7-8.
  - God commands that we love because He is love, 1 John 4:8.
3. The New Testament does not envision the spiritual life as a life in terms of isolated acts or automatic power divorced from character. The New Testament never envisions a moral or spiritual life that is simply about doing apart from developing spiritual character/virtue.

## Principles on virtue

4. All spiritual virtues center around those of Christ. All activity is to be subsumed under the notion of “becoming like Christ.” The ideal virtue is to become like Jesus Christ in our inner character, Eph. 4:20-32; 1 Pet. 2:21-24.
5. Overview of vices and virtues, Mark 7:20-23; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Col. 3:1-11; Gal. 5:19-23.

## Principles on virtue

6. It is impossible to develop spiritual virtue through natural means.
  - First-century Judaism relied on “spiritual” disciplines in an attempt to develop virtue.
  - The Greeks depended upon education to produce virtue.
  - In the modern world “virtue” does not have objective existence; it is all about pragmatism: what works.
  
7. The NT makes it clear that the power to create virtue in the believer is from the Holy Spirit. This is introduced in John 13-17 and developed in the Epistles, particularly those of Paul. For example, Romans 8.

## Principles on virtue

8. Without the Holy Spirit the person will not be able to grasp spiritual things in his life (1 Cor. 2:14).
9. It is the Holy Spirit who takes us from glory to glory, 2 Cor. 3:18. He is the one who changes us from the inside out.

## Principles on virtue

10. Believers who “live by the Spirit” will produce the fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:16, 22-23.
11. However, many modern believers have serious problems understanding and thus executing the spiritual life because of false philosophical viewpoints which infects their understanding of God, man, creation, virtue, FHS, and even truth. Apart from being a philosophical Realist, the believer will continue to grieve and quench the Holy Spirit and thus fail to advance in virtue in its various aspects from intellectual virtue to appetitive virtue.
12. Perhaps the best example of the importance of being a biblical Realist is the Word of Faith movement, which share the same philosophical concepts with the occult, yet they say that they are just following the Bible.

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

8) Genuine Love (γενέσθω). The virtue of love, the greatest virtue!

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- 18) Devoted to prayer
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- 20) Practicing hospitality

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

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

- 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,
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## 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. While I don't think I will ever get used to believers who are not on really serious about God and doctrine, I recognize my need not to take it so personal.
  - 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.

## **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.