

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 9

Metaphysics -32
Trans. 50

Reality –Logic 32,
Truth 32

11/19/2013

Overview of the sins against modern human intellect.

- 1. The believer and the Bible,** Heb 5:12, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers” – the point, background, & responsibility.
- 2. The believer, churches, truth and philosophy:** neo-Orthodoxy, neo-Evangelicalism, Existentialism, Mysticism, Fundamentalism, Pragmatism, Catholicism, Reformed, Fideism, Religionism, WOF, Doctrinal & Bible churches.
- 3. The believer and the spiritual life:** The nature of virtue (= real change), both natural and spiritual in contrast to dualistic view of the SL. While the biblical *demands* of progressive sanctification exist in the in the strongest language, let us never forget that we believers always have JC as our Righteous Advocate anytime we sin and fail, 1 John 1:1. Also, let us remember Happiness = Good).

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.2

1. A few words about the uniqueness of man.
 - a. Man is unique among all earthly creatures in that he is a rational being. Only he can know the whatness and source of all things. It is does not glorify God when man chooses not to develop his rational nature.
 - b. The more man develops his rationality, the more he is developed as a human being.
 - c. The more man develops his rationality, the healthier will be his will/heart, and affections/emotions on both the natural and supernatural levels (natural virtue and spiritual virtue).
 - d. Rationality is the one thing that most reflects the nature of God.
 - e. Rationality is all about contact with truth/reality as such—correspondence truth, beings as they are.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.2

2. Epistemology is understanding how we know what we know. It involves understanding three aspects:
 - a. The nature of the knower.
 - b. The nature of knowledge.
 - c. The nature of reality.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.2

3. Review of Epistemology :

- a. Reality is grounded in beings, not in the mind as per Hegel and many Christians (mystics and WOF Christians)
- b. Man is one being who gains knowledge through the interaction of the senses and intellect (contra Descartes).
- c. Knowing is an act.
- d. Man uses of language to communicate reality: nouns, verbs, ptcs.
- e. Beings/existences are best captured by participles--*being*.
- f. To grasp existence a distinction must be made between the essence of something and its existence—whatness vs. thatness.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.2

4. To grasp existence as such is to take a major step forward in understanding ultimate reality with regard to God, the Bible, creation, and the true nature of science. Consider what I am offering you. This has far greater implications than something like archaeological confirmation of Jericho and other biblical events.

5. To grasp existence as such is to remove jaundice views of reality as exemplified by deism and atheism. Remember, everyone does metaphysics, cf. Darwin's tree of life, phylogeny. Apart from the metaphysics of existence, you will not be able to see just how asinine atheism, deism, materialism really is. By grasping existence, you will gain capacity to see how God gives existence to all things.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.2

6. To grasp existence is to see the true nature of science, its merits and myths. You will go far beyond just finding holes in Darwinian “evidence.” You see the nonsense of personifying sheer physical forces and factors as if they could choose and have a strategy as in Mother Nature’s Natural Selection and Survival of the Fittest. You cannot personalize nature or the brain.
7. To grasp existence is to recognize the irrationality of deists, neo-orthodoxy, and liberals who deny the possibility of miracles in the Bible.
8. To grasp existence is to stop thinking like an unbeliever who, until Einstein, had no reason to think of the world in terms of contingency.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.2

9. To grasp existence is to see Christ as the Source and Savior of all science. The easiest thing to do is to give lip service to Christ as the sustainer of the universe all the while look at reality through jaundiced pagan lens, which is is irrational and anti-intellectual.

10. To grasp existence is to shed any materialism that you might have in which you grant matter divine properties like being its own necessary cause or existing before its existence to create its existence.. Recognition of contingency has far-reaching ramifications.

11. To grasp existence is to advance in the PR of God and the Bible and stop looking at creation like unbelievers, who see no need for God giving existence to all of creation. We need to see reality as it is and point out how the emperor (scientism) has no clothes.

Man – from salvation to sanctification



Romans 12 -16 = Spiritual Virtues

We are examining the 37 spiritual virtues of Romans 12

1. Verses 1-4: Dedication to God.
2. Verses 4-8: Genuine Humility.
3. Verses 9-21: True love.

Mental states,
Affections
&
Passions

“Emotions” is a
Cartesian and
Darwinian
concept.

Structure of Romans 12

➤ Virtues 1-4: The Cardinal Virtues.

- 1) **Present** your bodies to God: dedication to God
- 2) **Stop being conformed** to this age: rejection of kosmos diabolicus.
- 3) **Be transformed** by the renewing of the mind: the power of the WOG.
- 4) **Discern** the good, enjoyable, and perfect will of God: ministry of HS

Before we leave this section, we need to examine the nature and dangers of idolatry.

Idolatry – the nature and dangers of idolatry (dedicating your life to other things rather than God)

1. There is only one true God and no one compares to Him.

Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

Revelation 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

2. The greatest battle of our lives is the battle for our hearts (wills/desires/values).
 - a. John Calvin said it well, “the heart of man is an idol factory.”
 - b. Man has the predilection to create idols, which he follows with an intensity and passion due God. Man by his fallen nature suppresses the truth about God in his search for other “gods.”
 - c. Idolatry is characterized by a dedication to and passion for the things of this world that should be reserved for God alone. Failure to find meaning in God leads to frantic search for meaning in such things as work, comfort, money, image (clothes, cars, house), sex, food, recognition, fame, personal autonomy, marriage, family, autonomy. In idolatry things of this world are seen more valuable than God and so they are what a person thinks about, wishes, and seeks.

3. Idolatry has not only just been the biggest problem for people all over the world, it has always been the biggest problem for God's own people:

Joshua 24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods.

Exodus 32:4 And he took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." 5 Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." 6 So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

3. Idolatry has not only just been the biggest problem for people all over the world, it has always been the biggest problem for God's own people:

Isa. 44:9-20. "He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image, and falls down before it,"

Psalm 115:4-8 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands.
5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; 6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; 7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. 8 Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them.

3. Idolatry has not only just been the biggest problem for people all over the world, it has always been the biggest problem for God's own people:

Matthew 6:21-24 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:31-33 "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' 32 "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

3. Idolatry has not only just been the biggest problem for people all over the world, it has always been the biggest problem for God's own people:

Galatians 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 **idolatry, sorcery**, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to **idolatry**.

3. Idolatry has not only just been the biggest problem for people all over the world, it has always been the biggest problem for God's own people:

James 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an **enemy of God**.

1 John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from **idols**.

3. Idolatry has not only just been the biggest problem for people all over the world, it has always been the biggest problem for God's own people:

Revelation 17:4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Revelation 18:19 "And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'

4. Idolatry always comes with a very high price. Some of the consequences are all found in Romans 1.
 - a. Destruction of the spiritual life: loss of faith, hope, and love for God.
 - b. Loss touch of reality as one continues to suppresses truth.
 - c. A hardened and darkened heart.
 - d. Destruction of virtue.
 - e. Psychological disorders.
 - f. Divine discipline of handing people over to their idols.
 - g. Destruction of marriages and family relationships.
 - h. Destruction of a nation. We are already seeing the destruction of traditional marriage and perversion of the role of government.

5. The only antidote to idolatry is making God first priority in life---as illustrated by Abraham in Genesis 22 and Paul in Philippians 3, and as taught by Jesus in Matthew 6 and 22. This starts with “doing” –making decisions.

James 2:23, and he was called the friend of God.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 3:8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,

5. The only antidote to idolatry is making God first priority in life---as illustrated by Abraham in Genesis 22 and Paul in Philippians 3, and as taught by Jesus in Matthew 6 and 22.

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 22:37 And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

More on dedication and the development spiritual virtue:

1. Spiritual virtue is all about the act-potential development, the “completing” of our natures as human beings and as Christian beings (supernatural/spiritual virtues). Three areas of development.
 - a. Development of virtue in the intellect. This is the power to deliberate as a human being and as a Christian. Wisdom is gained through the HS, PR/reality, and the WOG.
 - b. Development of virtue in the will. Development of the will keeps a person from remaining sensate and obsessed with the food, sex, drink, and pleasure, which can cause a person to become a glutton, fornicator, and drunkard. As the person grows in virtue of the will, he gains the right appetites in all areas of life.
 - c. Development of virtue in the affections/emotions. Development of the believer’s feelings will result in mature and healthy emotional life that is in control of the intellect and will. With mature emotions the person is not needy nor a coward.

2. By growing in spiritual virtue, the believer thinks rightly, wishes rightly, and feels rightly; it is a part of his nature—his intrinsic character. He has the right thoughts about good, he has the right appetites about good, and the right emotional states about good.

3. Failing to grow in spiritual virtue means that the believer will continue to have bad/debased character with foul views, appetites, and emotions (cf., Mark 7:20-23; 1 Cor, 6:9-10; Col. 3:1-11; Gal. 5:29-23).
 - Consider how useless it is to talk to someone with a debased character about the TGB, especially a person who has so given himself over to vice that he has corrupted his views of reality, his appetites, and emotions. His whole view of true, good, and beautiful is jaundiced. Review of hylemorphism.

4. Just as virtue deals with the development of human nature according to its *telos*, so spiritual virtue is the development of the Christian according to his spiritual capacities. There are 3 cardinal virtues: faith (commitment to God), hope (in God), and love (for God). These virtues are only gained through fellowship with God, which brings in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Faith: this involves the mind, the will and the affections. God is the direct object of faith. You know Him with the mind, you trust Him with the will, and you have the proper feelings toward Him based on your understanding of Him.
 - b. Hope: This is faith, but directed to the future. God is still the direct object. Imagine the power of the one who has become a person of true hope.
 - c. Love: centered on God and the good of others. In love you truly want the best for the object of love.

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.

Pride as a vice should never be confused with what is known as “taking pride” in accomplishments. There is a valid and healthy esteem that one can “take pride in” with regard to accomplishments, friends, family, and even country.

Galatians 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

➤ 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

**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,
- 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!

Spiritual virtue: supernatural love illustrated

Moral love

#9: hating evil (moral love) (Ἀποστουγῶντες 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.
 - 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 crowing 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.