

**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  
Existence 4

Metaphysics -32  
Trans. 50

Reality –Logic 32,  
Truth 32

11/30/2013

Satan’s destruction of virtue in both the natural and supernatural realms.

**1. Virtue: the believer and his Bible.**

Acts 17:11, *Now these were more noble-minded (εὐγενής) than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.* Review of three levels of understanding the Bible.

**2. Virtue: the believer and the local church**

1 Tim. 3:15, *I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.* Loss of intellectual (mind), moral (will), and emotional (affections) virtue in contemporary liberalism and fundamentalism of Christianity.

**3. Virtue: Human beings and Christian beings—natural virtues and supernatural virtues**

The nature of spiritual virtue from walking with God to becoming a friend of God, Gen. 17:1; James 2:23; John 8:32.

**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.4

### 1. Example of the epistemological of realism in the Bible.

1 John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life—

1:2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.4

2. Review of structure of epistemological realism. Realism is the only epistemology that makes science and *sure* knowledge possible.
  - a. The knower. One must understand the nature of man. Man's rational nature alone does not know and his senses alone do not do the knowing. The need to avoid Cartesian dualism, and Kantian subjectivism/phenomenology.
  - b. The act of knowledge. One must understand the nature of reality and how it is represented by nouns, verbs, and ptcs.
  - c. The object known. This is reality. This is not to be reduced to mathematical concepts, which only map on to reality. Why is it that you cannot divide by zero?

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.4

3. Overview of grasping existence in the natural and supernatural realms. Grasping existence is always a 2<sup>nd</sup> act of the mind, a judgment.
  - a. Natural theology. This requires logic, philosophy, and abstraction from beings, Rom. 1:20. Only Realism enables the believer to see God through effects. The modern fields of philosophy and science are strewn with anti-realistic philosophies that make it impossible to see God through creation (Immanuel Kant, David Hume, Werner Heisenberg, Niels Bohr, liberal Christianity, Platonic Christianity, and existential Christianity).
  - b. Biblical theology. This is found in the 66 books of the Bible. The supernatural revelation contained in these books cannot be grasped apart from the supernatural infusion of grace by God. No man can have faith, hope, and love in the object of supernatural revelation apart from God.

## Note the anti-realism of quantum physics:

- ✓ Both Neils Bohr and Werner Heisenberger rejected in the name of quantum mechanics any concern about reality as such, about ontology, as unscientific and unphilosophical, to be avoided at all cost in physics.
- ✓ Einstein and other physicists warned the “Copenhagen people” that it was a dangerous game they were playing with reality.
- ✓ Neils Bohr, “A great truth is a truth of which the contrary is also a truth.” He went on to say that the propositions “there is a God” and “there is no God” are both equally insightful.
  - Of course he would not say this about his own quantum theory.
  - Bohr fought tooth and nail against any idea that we can know reality. He was very anti-ontological, but so is everyone who consequently cannot clearly see the existence of God in creation, Rom. 1:20.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.4

### 4. Grasping existence.

- a. Existences of things is the most obvious fact in the created world.
- b. Although existence is a fact, it cannot be grasped like concepts.
- c. Our intellect has the ability to consider a thing and the existence separately.
- d. Though things in reality are expressed by single words, existence as such is not expressed in single words. There is no single word available to designate one's knowledge that something exists.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.4

4. Grasping existence.
  - e. Existence as such can only be grasped by the 2<sup>nd</sup> act of the mind known as “judgment.”
  - f. “Judgment” is the technical term to denote the intellectual activity by which the existence of things is known.
  - g. Knowing *that* something is requires a different kind of intellectual activity (judgment) than *what* something is (conceptualization).

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.4

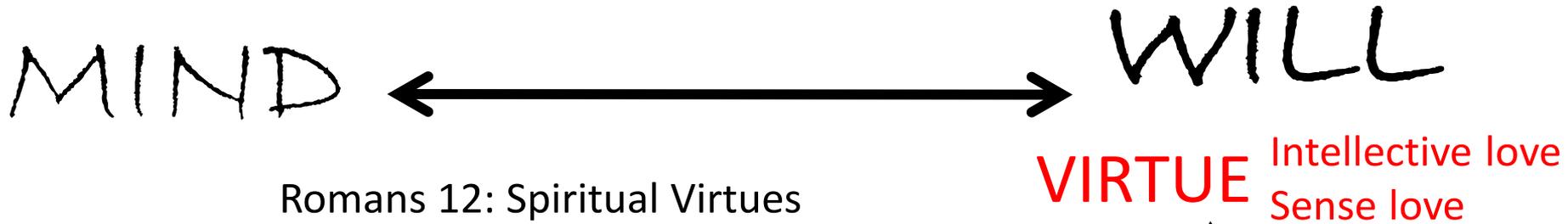
4. Grasping existence.
  - h. “Judgment” is a distinctive act of cognition that is dynamic and conditioned by time. What is known dynamically though judgment is represented *statically* in a proposition (to be or not to be). Existences are incessantly changing.
  - i. Existence is only grasped by a synthesizing act of cognition called judgment, which takes place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> act of the mind.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.4

### 5. Grasping the existence of God.

- a. True faith is a way of knowing. It is not some blind stumbling in the dark as popular atheists assert.
- b. The existence of God is reach by intellectual judgment. Man does not see God directly. He forms judgment on the existence of God based on causation and other factors. This means that the issue is the will as man is free to accept or suppress God. Hence, it is the issue of volition and therefore virtue or morality in contrast to seeing something directly
- c. Faith in the mere existence of God via demonstration needs to be distinguished from faith in the supernatural realities of the Word of God which are revealed directly by God and therefore are more certain than any rational demonstration. God reveals supernatural revelation in accordance with a person's 2<sup>nd</sup> order will and habituation in carnality or spirituality (under the HS).

# Man – natural and supernatural virtues



1. Verses 1-2: Supernatural virtues related to life with God.
2. Verses 3-8: Supernatural virtues related to true humility.
3. Verses 9-21: Supernatural virtues related to true love.

Mental states,  
Affections  
&  
Passions

“Emotions” is a  
Cartesian and  
Darwinian  
concept.

## Romans 12

### ➤ Virtues 1-4: The Preeminent Virtues before God.

- 1) **Present** your bodies to God: this includes body and soul.
- 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

### Principles

1. It is important to make a distinction between the classical natural virtues (justice, wisdom, courage, moderation) and supernatural virtues (the raising of all classical virtues to supernatural level through the direct infusing of God's grace, and the cardinal virtue of faith, hope, and love).

2. Virtue is all about completing/perfecting of nature, making it excellent. The unique nature of man is in his rational nature made in the image of God.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any **excellence/virtue** and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

2 Peter 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and **excellence/virtue**.

2 Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply **virtue** (moral excellence), and in your **virtue** (moral excellence), knowledge; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The four classical natural virtues are relevant to man in every age because they are relevant to man himself. They fit man's nature and his nature's needs. They are the way a man has a healthy soul.
  - a. Justice (vice = wrong thoughts or actions)
  - b. Wisdom (vice = ignorance, subjective thinking)
  - c. Courage (vice = cowardice).
  - d. Moderation (no control over appetites).

Romans 2:14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

#### 4. Virtue is what completes man. There are 3 key areas of development.

- Development of virtue in **the intellect**. This is the power to deliberate as a human being and as a Christian. There is natural wisdom and supernatural wisdom. Wisdom is gained through the HS, PR/reality, and the WOG.
- 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 desires in all areas of life.
- Development of virtue **in the affections/emotions**. Development of the believer's feelings will result in mature and healthy emotional life that is controlled by the intellect and will. With mature emotions the person does not find himself being needy for man's approval.

5. By growing in spiritual virtue, the believer thinks rightly, wishes rightly, and feels rightly; they all become 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.
  
6. Failing to grow in spiritual virtue means that the believer will continue to have bad/debased character with evil views, foul appetites, and debased 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.

7. A biblical overview of virtues and vices, Prov. 21:23; 23:1-2; 20-21; 25:16; Ezek. 16:49-50; Matt. 6:19-24; Rom. 13:7-14; 1 Cor. 3:1-4; 6:9-13, 10:6-8; 11:30-32; Gal. 5:16-26; Col. 3:1-11; 1 Tim. 5:13; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; Titus 1:12; Heb. 12:16; James 2:14-24; 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:3; Rev. 21:8.
  
8. The three cardinal supernatural virtues for Christianity are faith, hope, and love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

9. Just as natural 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 *telos*. There are 3 cardinal virtues: supernatural faith (commitment to God), hope (in God), and love (for God). **These virtues are only gained through special infusion of grace.**
- 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. Again, this is supernatural.
  - c. Love: centered on God and the good of others—even neighbors and enemies. In love you truly want the best for the object of love.

## 10. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical faith.

- a. Biblical faith as supernatural revelation from God is true and sure knowledge in supernatural realities and is only possible by the infusion of grace from God. The unbeliever has absolutely no capacity to see/grasp and trust in the things the believer can and does through the power of God. This has great significance as far as the “problem” of evil.
- b. Miscellaneous passages on supernatural faith-knowledge:

Ephesians 1:16 I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

## 10. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical faith.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Exodus 7:13 Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8:32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:12 And the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

## 10. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical faith.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.** 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

## 10. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical faith.

- c. The supernatural faith knowledge revealed by God is certain because it comes directly from God. However, this is not to be confused with fideism.
- d. This faith is marked by total absence of doubt. They are held in certainty in the same way as first principles of thought for unbelievers.
- e. While reason can prove demonstrably the existence of God so that man can clearly grasp the reality of God, no man can grasp supernatural truths apart from divine aid/grace.

## 11. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical hope.

- a. Like supernatural faith, it is impossible for man to possess the supernatural virtue of hope by reason alone, regardless of how much of the Bible he might “know.”
- b. Because it is supernatural, it comes from without; it is neither present in man by his nature, habit, or produced by any repeated activity, like the acquired habit of logic or metaphysical reasoning.
- c. While faith is infused or aided in the intellect, hope is infused in the will to produce supernatural hope.

## 11. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical hope.

- d. All supernatural hope relates to a goal—the good it hopes for—and to an agent—on whose help it relies to attain the goal.
- e. The virtue of supernatural hope has God as the object along with His happiness/blessedness and unlimited goodness.

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope;

Contra: 1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

## 12. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical love.

- a. While supernatural faith is a right way of knowing and so has a strong intellectual component, and hope is mostly seated in the will, love more encompasses and perfects/completes the whole person.
- b. Faith-knowledge and hope are temporary, but supernatural love is endless,

1 Corinthians 13:13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## 12. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical love.

- c. The best human analogy of supernatural love for God is in the concept of friendship, which enjoys compatible commitment to each other's good.

John 15:15 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Isa 41:8 "But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My friend,

## 12. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical love.

- d. Supernatural love as a virtue is based on mutual sharing (fellowship) of the happiness of God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e. In this love for God, the believer loves others because of God's love others. He loves others because the One he loves loves others. This is how a believer can love His enemies.

1 John 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

## 12. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical love.

- f. Like the other supernatural virtues, this supernatural virtue is not something that man has in him by nature but rather comes from God. Man does not by nature have this love and affection.

1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

Gal. 5:22, the fruit of the Spirit is love . . .

## 12. Characteristics of the supernatural virtue of biblical love.

g. Supernatural love includes two aspects:

- 1) desire for the good of the beloved, and
- 2) desire to have right relationship with the beloved.

h. Without supernatural love for God, man has two opposite desires with respect to God.

- 1) desire for the non-existence of God.
- 2) desire for isolation from God.

## 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)** (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.
  - 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.