

Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)

T/G/B

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
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Hermeneutics
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Trans. 50
Reality –Logic 32,
Truth 32

John 8:32; Luke 23:32-47.
Any questions?

1. Visible creation. How Nominalism (Ockhamism) has destroyed much our ability to really appreciate, love, and glorify Jesus Christ in visible creation and science, cf., Rom 1:18-20; Col. 1:15-16; Heb. 1:3; Acts 17:28.

2. The Bible. How Nominalism has destroyed much our ability to really appreciate, love, and glorify Jesus Christ via personal understanding of the Bible, Heb. 5:12; Acts 17:11.

3. The spiritual life. How Nominalism has destroyed much of our ability to really appreciate, love, and glorify Jesus Christ in our spiritual lives, Rom. 8:4-9; Gal. 5:16-25; 2 Pet. 1:5; Philip. 4:8.

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-7

1. Jesus Christ, the Bestower of existence as such.

John 1:3 “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being and continues in being (ὃ γέγονεν).”

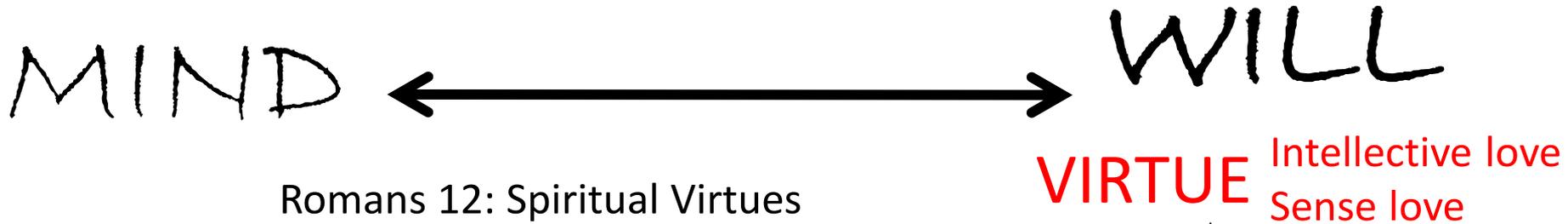
Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things continue to exist (συνέστηκεν). 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and sustains all things (φέρων τε τὰ πάντα) by the word of His power.

EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence-7

2. By grasping existence, the believer is able to recover much of what has been lost regarding Jesus Christ, total truth, and authentic Christianity.
 - By grasping existence the believer is able to put Christ in His rightful place as Lord over all things in a very meaningful way.
 - Christ's rightful place as Esse, the Bestower of Existence.
 - Jesus's rightful place in giving birth to science as the God-man.
 - Christ as the Savior of science.
 - The anti-realism of Copenhagen quantum physics (Born, Bohr).
 - Science's bankruptcy regarding any values.

Man – natural and supernatural virtues



1. Verses 1-2: Dedication to God and supernatural inner and outer transformation.
2. Verses 3-8: From supernatural transformation to supernatural humility.
3. Verses 9-21: From supernatural humility to supernatural love.

“Emotions” is a Cartesian and Darwinian concept.

Romans 12

➤ Virtues 1-4: The Supernatural Virtues of the Christ-centered life.

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

Transformation by faith, hope, and love.

1. The distinction between religious “forms” and spiritual inner transformation. A word about my greatest fear as a PT regarding your spiritual life.
 - a. The curse of religionism: religion is always concerned with form (outward traditional conformity) rather than substance; it lacks inner life with God; unable to move beyond nominalism (1 Tim. 6:4).
 - b. The blessed of inner transformation in progressive growth in the supernatural faith, hope and love.

2. Inner spiritual transformation is always accompanied by the 3 cardinal virtues of supernatural faith, hope, and love—which is only possible by the direct activity of God as He actualizes each person’s desires and choices. Without the direct aid of God’s grace, the best that man can do is go through the motions, i.e. religionism, nominalism.
- Supernatural Faith: supernatural power for supernatural conviction regarding supernatural revelation from God requires God’s supernatural grace. The believer makes the decision for God and the things of God or away from them and it is God/Esse who gives reality to the direction of all decisions.
 - Supernatural Hope: supernatural power for supernatural hope regarding the future requires God’s supernatural grace. Esse is always actualizes the believer’s decisions and actions.
 - Supernatural Love: supernatural power for supernatural love regarding God and the things of God require God’s supernatural grace. Esse is always actualizing a person’s choices.

3. Faith is a spiritual virtue that is characterized by absolute conviction with regard God and the supernatural revelation of the Word of God, John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 2:9-16; Col. 2:2; 1 Thess. 1:5; Rom. 8:15-16.
- Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
 - Faith is absolute conviction. It is not opinion or wishful thinking. Since it is absolute conviction about supernatural revelation, it requires direct infusion of God's grace.
 - Every believer should examine his own life in regard to his faith. A believer's faith will be directly related to his life in reference to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, Rom. 10:17; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19.

- It is the Bible that reveals the structure of faith. However, God is the ultimate object of faith. Lack of growth in faith will tend to a fideism regarding science and subjective views about God.
- A believer's faith, conviction about Truth, will drive his interest and love for Truth. It is skepticism that kills interest in Truth. This results in pragmatism and religion.
- Consider the implications of faith in the context of Corinthians' spiritual life and communion.
- Lack of faith, unfaithfulness, faithlessness is great vice because it is a sin against Truth, a failure to believe Truth as such. Failure to believe and pursue truth results in kosmic fideism and mammonism/idolatry.

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica;

Adam and Eve.

4. Hope is a supernatural virtue characterized by *certain and eager* anticipation with regard to God and His promises.
- Illustration of the power of Realism as Socrates had more hope dying than many modern Christians (nominalistic) when facing death.
 - Hope is not wishful thinking. It is an eager, confident, expectation that is characterized by good attitude or disposition in all things.
 - Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling,
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,
 - Ephesians 2:12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.
- 1 Timothy 4:10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.
- 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.

- Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;
- 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

- Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,
- 1 Thessalonians 1:3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,
- Romans 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

- Hope is absolutely confident that this life will be followed by another, and right away on one's moment of death.
- Hope is able to enter into conviction of the reality expressed by the LJC, ""I assure you: this day you will be with Me in paradise (Lk. 23:43).
- Hope is able to appreciate the otherworldly utterances of Jesus Christ
- Hope is able to see that whatever one gains on earth pales in significance when compared to life beyond the grave.

- Hope is able to appreciate the fact that “the heavens and earth pass away, but My words will not (Matt. 24:35)
- Hope is able to appreciate the true Christ who claimed to be the Son of the Living God who knows all things, keeps all things in existence through the universe, gives abundant life on this earth, and guarantees life with Him forever.
- Hope is able to live and thrive in the invisible realities of God.
- Hope brings a supernatural confidence to all issues of life.

5. Divine Love. Supernatural love is the single greatest virtue possible. Like all other supernatural virtues, it requires direct infusion of grace from God.

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.

1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 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? 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love,

1 Thessalonians 3:12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all men, just as we also do for you;

- All men need God's love. It is the way all men are wired.
- Supernatural love includes two interdependent characteristics:
 - 1) Desire for the good of the beloved (glorification of God).
 - Lack of love = lack of desire to glorify God.
 - 2) Desire to be close to the beloved (presenting self to God).
 - Lack of love = desire to be autonomous, isolated from God.

6. The believer who presents himself to the Lord in the manner of Romans 12:1 will advance in supernatural life characterized by the supernatural virtues of faith, hope, and love to a life beyond what he could ask or imagine. Because he lives in the power of God, he will find himself year after year increasing in faith, hope, and love as he enters into more of these blessed realities. He becomes a supernatural person in virtue.

7. Through dedication to God, the believer lives in God who bestows upon the believer increasing faith, hope, and love whereby the believer progressively overcomes the 3 foes of his spiritual life: the world, the flesh, and the devil.
 - The world, John 17:11-17; Matt. 6:19-33; 1 John 2:15-17.

 - The flesh, John 4:23-24; Rom. 8:4-9; Gal 5:16-23

 - The devil, Eph. 6:10-20; Matt. 16:22, 23; 26:33; 6:13; 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Pet. 5:8-9.

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.