

## THE OTHER STUFF OF LIFE Part 3

1. Moral excellence
2. Knowledge
3. Self control
4. Patient endurance

*2 Peter 1:5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with **godliness**,*

### **5. Godliness**

- ❖ When one is asked to define godliness, it is easy to quickly jump to the definition that says it is Christian character
- ❖ Godliness certainly includes Christian character, but it is more than that. There is another, even more fundamental aspect of godliness than godly character.
- ❖ I would like to define a godly life as one that is **entirely dedicated to God** – in other **words an unwavering devotion to God**
- ❖ Early in the bible, a story of a man named Enoch is narrated  
*Genesis 5:21 When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in **close fellowship with God** for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. Enoch lived 365 years, walking in **close fellowship with God**. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him*
- ❖ Moses twice describes him as one who "**walked with God or fellowshiped with God.**"
- ❖ Later on in the New Testament, in the hall of faith, Enoch was described as one who pleased God

*Hebrews 11:5 It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who **pleased God**.*

- ❖ Two elements appear, which can point to us what it means to be godly; Enoch was both described as having walked with God and pleased God
- ❖ In his life, Enoch was entirely focused on God – he gave God undivided attention.
- ❖ Walking with God and pleasing God is at the centre of godliness

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- ❖ A complete devotion to God drives you to a place where everything you do is done in light of Him.
- ❖ It is a burning desire to be like Jesus – we have people who want to be a cheap version of other people
- ❖ It speaks of an unwavering conformity to the image of God and mind of Christ.

*Romans 12:1 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

*Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength*

- ❖ It is this basis from which Christian character is birthed – the more time you spend with God, the more you become like Him.
- ❖ Paul talked about this when he said “its no longer I that lives...”

*Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me*

- ❖ Pursuing godliness will influence the meditations of your heart, the words of your mouth and the thoughts you allow to linger in your mind (psalms 19:14)

*Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

- ❖ Pursuing godliness has eternal value associated with it

*1 Timothy 4:8 For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

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*2Peter 1:5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with **brotherly affection***

### **6. Brotherly love**

- ❖ There is nothing that gets close to defining us as believers as this thing called brotherly love.
  - ❖ This is the love that exists between believers – it is the love that exists in the life of a believer
- 1 John 3:10 So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.*
- ❖ There is nothing as disappointing as a self acclaimed believer who is devoid of love – it is a contradiction and a travesty of theology

*1 John 3:14 If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers,[a] it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. 15 Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them*

- ❖ Your level of brotherly love is a real litmus test of your love for God. It determines the quality of your relationship with God
- 1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?*
- ❖ Your love for your brother is a clear indication of your maturity levels in God.
  - ❖ Some of your greatest tests in life will come around this thing called brotherly love.
  - ❖ Brotherly love gives us victory over
    - ❖ Race and ethnic differences
    - ❖ Class divisions
    - ❖ Educational differences
  - ❖ There is something about brotherly love that distinguishes you and me from other people
- John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*
- ❖ This means that brotherly love brings with it a standard that cannot be matched.
  - ❖ Brotherly love is that type of love that has no hook or conditions attached to it.

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- ❖ Some of our greatest problems in our churches occur when the church fails to live up to this standard
- ❖ That is when people leave churches – people don't quit on God, they quit on people. It's a case of unmet expectations
- ❖ Every Child of God has a right to expect this type of love. At the same time every child of God has a responsibility to give out this type of love
- ❖ When brotherly love is exercised, it will result in the healing of people who suffer from PVS (Perpetual visitors' Syndrome)
- ❖ How does this brotherly love look like

*1 John 3:16 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister[a] in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? 18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions*

- It is sacrificial, it is costly – there is a price to be paid. It is always free for the recipient but costly for the source
- It is observant, it notices it's environment
- It is responsive – it's response is relevant to the situation

*Acts 4:32-36*

*32 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. 33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. 34 There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them 35 and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.*

- It is practical in meeting the felt needs.

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### **7. Love for all men**

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- ❖ What you do for yourself dies with you but what you do for others out lives you.
- ❖ When it comes to loving people, the bible is very clear. This is the love for people who are not necessarily believers and this can be tough. This includes your relatives

*1 Timothy 5:8 But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.*

- ❖ There is a calling on our lives to love the unlovable, to show mercy to the most brutal of people

*Romans 13:8 Be indebted to no one, except to one another in love, for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the Law.*

- ❖ Love is supernatural. An unbeliever cannot love as the Bible commands because he does not have divine life.
- ❖ It takes divine life to love one's enemies and to pray for one's executioners

*Luke 6:27-36*

*27 "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you. 32 "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. 35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.*

#### **In conclusion to this series:**

One cannot over emphasize the importance of making an effort to respond to the promises of God. When you make an effort to add these other stuff of life, a number of things will happen:

*2 Peter 1:8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or*

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*blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.*

- a) You become productive and useful in your knowledge of Jesus**
- b) You no longer live for the now but you live with the future in mind**
- c) You are not blind to what really matters in life**
- d) You are aware of what you are from and what you are saved for**