



Lesson #8: Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

- I. **Grace upon Grace: For the believer, God's grace provides for both the justification for salvation and the sanctification for the transformational process of becoming Christlike through yielding to the Spirit (cf. Rom. 6:1-14, 8:11-13, 12:1; Eph. 2:10; Gal. 5:16).**
 - A. Initial Sanctification. Also called justification, this is the moment the believer came to faith and is sufficient for salvation (cf. Rom. 6:11).
 - B. Progressive Sanctification. Also called experiential sanctification, this is the ongoing transformational lifestyle whereby the believer lives out his faith, grows in Christlikeness, and produces spiritual fruit as long as he does not "quench the Spirit" (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10).
 - C. Ultimate Sanctification. Also called glorification or completed sanctification, this is the moment the believer will enter heaven and sin has been eradicated (cf. 2 Cor 5:6-10; Rev 21:27).

- II. **The Great Commandment: The believer has been commissioned to live a life that is characterized by a total love for God and an active love for his fellow image-bearers (cf. Matt. 22:37-39; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:27-28).**
 - A. Love God Supremely. The believer is called to love Jesus Christ with a love that takes precedent over every other relationship in the disciple's life (cf. Matt. 10:37-40; Luke 14:26).
 - Manifested by obeying Him (cf. John 14:15, 24).
 - Manifested by joining Him in what He is doing in this world (cf. John 21:15-17).
 - Manifested by relating to one another in love and grace (cf. 1 John 4:7, 11; John 13:34-35).
 - Manifested by understanding our possessions, positions, and preferences (cf. Matt. 19:21-22, 6:24).
 - B. Love Others Sacrificially. The believer is called to love others by following Jesus' example of loving others in both attitude and action (cf. John 13:34-35, 15:13; Gal. 6:10; Matt. 5:43-47; Rom. 5:8-10).
 - Manifested by caring for one another (cf. the "one another" passages).

Do These Things "One Anothers"

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| • Devoted to
(Rom. 12:10a) | • Greeting
(Rom. 16:16;
4 others) | • Being kind to
(Eph. 4:32) | • Offering hospitality
(1 Pet. 4:9) |
| • Instructing
(Rom. 15:14) | • Bearing with
(Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13) | • Praying for
(James 5:16b) | • Edifying
(Rom. 14:19) |
| • Carrying burdens
for (Gal. 6:2) | • Confessing sins to
(James 5:16a) | • Loving
(Rom. 13:8;
11 others) | • Serving
(Gal. 5:13) |
| • Encouraging
(1 Thes. 4:18;
2 others) | • Same mind towards
(Rom. 12:16; 15:5) | • Caring for
(1 Cor. 12:25) | • Esteeming
(Phil. 2:3) |
| • Honoring
(Rom. 12:10b) | • Waiting for
(1 Cor. 11:33) | • Submitting to
(Eph. 5:21;
1 Pet. 5:5) | • Fellowshiping with
(1 John 1:7) |
| | | | • Accepting
(Rom. 15:7) |

Stop Doing These Things "One Anothers"

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| • Lusting for
(Rom. 1:27) | • Hating
(Titus 3:3) | • Envyng
(Gal. 5:26b) | • Destroying
(Gal. 5:15c) |
| • Biting
(Gal. 5:15a) | • Judging
(Rom. 14:13) | • Slandering
(James 4:11) | • Lying to
(Col. 3:9) |
| • Provoking
(Gal. 5:26a) | • Devouring
(Gal. 5:15b) | • Depriving
(1 Cor. 7:5) | • Grumbling against
(James 5:9) |

- Manifested by caring for the poor (cf. Deut. 15:11; Prov. 14:21, 19:17, 22:9, 28:27; Zech. 7:10; Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 14:13).
- Manifested by caring for the oppressed (cf. Deut. 24:14-15; Ps. 68:5, 82:3-4, 140:12; Prov. 21:3, 22:22-23, 29:7, 31:8-9; Jer. 22:16; Isa. 1:16-17).

III. The Spiritual Battle: The believer will find that the Christian life is characterized by joy and sorrow, peace and conflict, success and failure, as the believer rests in the hopeful reality of his certain future (cf. John 16:33; 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:3).

- Our Duty. The believer must battle daily against Satan and evil (cf. Matt. 12:25-29; Eph. 6:10-18; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; 1 John 5:19).
- Our Means. The believer will find that spiritual battles require spiritual means and must rely upon God's Word, the power of the Spirit, and the ministry of Jesus (cf. Matt. 4:1-11; John 8:44; Eph. 6:17; Col. 2:13; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Heb. 2:14; Eph. 6:18; John 14:14, 16:24).
- Our Confidence. The believer can remain encouraged, knowing that Jesus has overcome this world (cf. John 26:33; Col. 2:15; 1 John 4:4).

IV. The Great Commission: The believer is called to live with great intentionality as he is called to "make disciples" of both unbelievers and believers (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).