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November 2022
Monthly Newsletter

Christians Should Have And Live By These Virtues

Scripture Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Dear Chosen One: The word Virtue has many definitions. I will describe some and I hope you will be motivated and strive to achieve them and live your life according to these godly values. This is the kind of life that pleases God.

- **LOVE**

Love is an action word and oftentimes many people use it as a noun- a name, place, or thing, by just saying it and never acting or showing love. Jesus instructed us to first love God, each other, and even our enemies. Read Matthew 5:43-48, [44] **"...But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."**

Wow! This is a challenging task to do because throughout our lives we will come in contact with individuals who have cursed, hated, spitefully used us, and those who have and still continue to persecute us. Nevertheless, we must put aside our personal feelings and show love. It will not be easy but obeying Jesus' command is worth the effort.

- **HUMILITY**

We are living in a society where pride and selfishness are dominating the lives of many people. Some people believe to be humble is to be timid or to accept defeat but that is a delusion and a lie from the devil. To humble oneself means to trust God and accept His divine will for your life. You and God cannot be the head of your life at the same time. When you humble yourself, you are also

submitting to the authority of the Holy Spirit to rule and reign in your life.

The Bible says, in 1 Peter 5:5, **"Likewise you young [and old] people, submit yourselves to your elders [godly leaders]. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."** You and I don't have to follow the multitude when they are doing evil. Let us aim to live our lives in humility and continue to trust God even in the midst of adversity.

- **ACCEPTANCE**

Many people today have a tough time accepting who they are in Christ and the way God created them, that is - in His image and likeness. This feeling of dissatisfaction has caused some individuals to take matters into their own hands. They change and alter their appearances, gender, identity, and the areas in which they are dissatisfied. Some people are searching to be accepted and are willing to go to the extreme to do anything just to be accepted by others without realizing that God loves them the way He created them.

As individuals, you and I first must accept who we are and embrace our true identity. We must also learn to accept others without prejudice. Remember, we should seek to be accepted by God and not people. Genesis 4:7 says, **"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."** Today, let's embrace your God created femininity and your masculinity and accept who we are.

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- **MERCY**

Mercy is an action word. Oftentimes, when people find themselves in a predicament, they will cry out to God or others to grant them mercy. Sadly, most of those same individuals who seek mercy from God and others are not willing to demonstrate mercy to others when needed. This lack of empathy for others has created conflict in churches, at home, on the job, and in the lives of many individuals. In the Gospel of Matthew 18:22-35 a parable shows one man's lack of mercy.

A man owed the king lots of money and when he could not pay his debt the king ordered him and his family to be sold into slavery. The man begged the king to grant him mercy and to give him time to repay his debt. Not only did the king grant his request, but he also cancelled the debt. Then that same man, after leaving the king, found one of his servants who owed him a small amount of money and demanded payment. The servant was unable to repay him but instead of granting his servant mercy, he had him thrown in prison. Yes! Sometimes we too behave like this merciless man, not wanting to forgive others when they have wronged us. Yet, we constantly keep crying out to God for mercy. My friend God's mercies are new every morning and we too must practice granting mercy every day to each other.

- **HOPE**

We are living in an era where Hope is being questioned. Have you ever heard someone say, "**I have lost all hope in...**" Sometimes this phrase is used when individuals are frustrated or received an unfavorable decision. You and I must **KEEP HOPE ALIVE** in spite of the challenges or obstacles we may meet. Isaiah 40:31, tells us, "**...those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.**" Yes, this is a great motivational scripture. When all fails, we must know that hope is still available to us. Don't believe

the hype and lose hope. **Your HOPE is as SOLID as the ROCK-JESUS**

- **VISION**

How do you envision things? Do you see the glass half empty or half full? In order to see clearly you must look through God's lens. His lens is better than your bifocal, or corrective lens. Vision is a perceiving virtue; it allows you to see beyond the surface or façade. If you don't have a clear vision about God's will for your life you can easily get blindsided and settle for a distorted vision.

Saul had an inaccurate vision about who Jesus was, and he persecuted Christians believing he was doing the right thing. Unfortunately, God had to knock him off his "high horse", blind him, and then, direct him to Straight street in order to have the scales removed from his eyes. When those scales were removed, Jesus changed his name to Paul and his vision became clear. With an unobstructed vision, Jesus was able to use Paul as one of His chosen vessels (Read Acts Chapter 9.)

- **FAITH**

The Bible tells us it's impossible to please God without Faith. [Hebrews 11:6.] Faith is real loyalty to God. It compels you to think in the power of God. It moves you to develop obedience to God. It gives you the power to think in the spiritual realm. Faith is NOT the opposite of *fear*. Hebrews 11:1 says, "**Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**" As Christians we need to use our faith more often in our everyday lives. Faith allows us to look beyond the natural realm and it gives us the insight into the spiritual realm. Ask the Holy Spirit to increase your Faith and use it.

- **WISDOM**

Wisdom is Knowledge. It gives you insight, good sense, sound judgment and the ability to understand **truth**. It gives you the aspect to discern God's will for his people. Every Christian should get Wisdom especially those who are "**Servant Leaders**" within the Body of Christ. You need Wisdom, so get it.

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