

speaking to God's people

freegiftfromgod

bible studies

Subject: **Walking with Jesus – Pt 6 – Godliness**

Scripture

Introduction

Commentary

The apostle Peter defined a process to help people to progress as Christians, and so I will be using the pattern he defined in 2 Peter 1:5-7, which says:

5 For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

We continue on now with the sixth segment of Peter's approach to walking in the Lord, which is Godliness.

In a nutshell, godliness is to be like God. Not in some supernatural or "all-seeing, all-powerful" kind of a way, but to learn to understand and apply the nature of God in our day to day lives. So the starting point of godliness is to know what is the nature of God like and how should we live in godliness?

1 John 4:15-16	<p>The apostle John wrote a great deal about the nature of godliness and the nature of God through his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He made these very important points which show us the way of godliness.</p> <p><i>15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.</i></p> <p>The key point here is to understand what God is like. John tells us here that God is love. So to know the nature of God means we need to understand what love is.</p> <p>What is important to know is that there are several Greek words that translate into English as “love.” They are “philo” which is like brotherly love, or the love of the brethren for each other. Then there is “eros” which is sexual love and where we get the word “erotic” from today. Finally, the third Greek word is “agape” which is the love of “doing” or love in action. In the King James Version of the Bible this word is translated as charity.</p> <p>When talking about the love of God we are talking about the “agape” love and when the bible says, “God is love” it is saying “God is agape.” This love is about our behaviours and attitudes and how we treat people and so on. As we will see shortly it is something that we do rather than how we feel.</p>
Titus 1:1	<p>It is important to understand the nature of love as God sees it, but also to seek out the truth. The truth of Jesus Christ is very much a part of the love of God for as we know from John 3:16, “God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”</p> <p>In Jesus we find the truth of this love that God had for the world. Also here we see Paul speak of the alliance between truth with godliness, for as God is true, we need to be true too.</p> <p><i>1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth which accords with godliness</i></p>

	<p>The knowledge of the truth of Jesus Christ will lead us to godliness. When we walk in Christ we walk in the truth and we walk in the love of God. When we walk in godliness we abide in Jesus and He in us and so we are part of the family of God.</p>
1 Timothy 4:7-8	<p>Godliness is not something that just happens. It's not something that just appears out of the blue. Instead we see Paul instruct Timothy about the way to godliness, and it is a lesson we must heed too.</p> <p><i>7 Have nothing to do with godless and silly myths. Train yourself in godliness; 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.</i></p> <p>Train yourself in godliness is Paul's instruction to Timothy. Exercise godliness in your life. Learn and apply it as you walk in the ways of God.</p> <p>As he shows Timothy, there may be some value in exercising for it will keep you physically fit, but godliness leads to eternal life and will keep you spiritually solid with the Lord. When we learn and apply godliness in our lives we become strong in the Lord able to withstand the issue that are thrown against us.</p>
1 Timothy 6:3-8	<p>In this scripture Paul shows us some of the aspects of people who are NOT living in godliness. Such people put themselves first above all others, whereas the truth that accords with godliness is to put the Lord first and to take on the attitude of one who serves.</p> <p><i>3 If any one teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching which accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit, he knows nothing; he has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, 5 and wrangling among men who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. 6 There is great gain in godliness with contentment; 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world;</i></p>

	<p><i>8 but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content.</i></p> <p>As Paul shows, there is great contentment for those who live in godliness. When we live as following the Lord we are content for we know and trust in the Lord that all of our needs will be provided. If we need food, clothing, shelter or anything else, we are content for we know that the Lord shall provide.</p> <p>At the start of this section he also shows us a method for finding godliness and learning about it. It is the sound words and teachings of Jesus Christ that accord with godliness and thus it is by following the teachings and words of Jesus Christ that we can be assured of finding this way.</p>
1 John 4:7-8	<p>At the start of this study we saw that God is love and that if we are to abide in Him we need to learn the ways of love. We need to learn love for one another also, for it is in the love of the brethren that we exhibit the love of God.</p> <p><i>7 Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God.</i> <i>8 He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.</i></p> <p>As John wrote here, whoever does not love does not know God. Our aim is to know God and to be known by Him so that we will receive the promised eternal life.</p> <p>To know God is to understand and know the love of God. And when we walk in the love of God we walk in godliness for we reflect the nature of God. So what does the love of God look like and thus by extension, the nature of God? Perhaps the best way to get a glimpse is to look at love, and the first place look is in the next scripture.</p>
	<p>1 Corinthians 13 is often called the love chapter. It is a good description of those aspects of love that we aspire to that represent the love of God. As you read these verses you see the “agape” love that is the love of God, for all of these are attitudes and behaviours that we seek to be made manifest in ourselves. They are not feelings and emotions, but represent the love of relationship with God and with each other.</p>

1 Corinthians 13:4-8	<p><i>4 Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; 5 it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends</i></p>
1 Timothy 6:11	<p><i>11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.</i></p>

Look at what it says. All of these are about how we relate to each other and are things that we can and need to control in our lives. It's not about how we feel, but how we react and behave in any and all situations.

And the most important point is in the last verse. Love never ends. Why? Because God is love, God is eternal and thus God and love are eternal and never ending.

Love is a positive thing too. As it says in verse 7, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Love has a positive outlook on life. Love seeks the good of others and the good of self. It is joyful and always looks on the brighter side of life because in love we are looking to the Lord Jesus Christ and there is no light or brightness other than in Jesus Christ.

And when we seek and find the way of love we will walk in godliness. And this is our aim...to be remade in the image of Jesus Christ, which is to walk in godliness as He is godly and God.

Paul makes this statement to Timothy showing the importance of godliness amongst other things. We too need to listen to his sage advice.

We need to make godliness one of the important things we aim for in our walk with Jesus Christ. To make it an aim is to set it as a goal to strive for. Seek the Lord and learn His ways, especially the ways of love so that we can become like Him in godliness. And be led by the Holy Spirit who does the work of transformation to change us into the image of Jesus Christ.

<p>So what next?</p>	<p>This is an introduction to godliness and the importance of it in the life of a Christian as we walk with Christ. More needs to be added, but I hope in this introduction you will continue the search for the knowledge of this truth in the Lord Jesus Christ. Please feel free to send me any comments or things you have learned in your own studies or as a result of this information.</p> <p>So now it's your turn. What would you like to add to this conversation? Send me an email (link below) or engage with me on Twitter (@JohnBLemmon) or send me a comment on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/FreeGiftFromGod and let's have the discussion continue.</p> <p>Feel free also to send this to others so they can join the conversation. I hope this has added value to your own walk with Christ.</p>
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