

THE LIFE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD PT. 7

II Peter 1:5-11

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I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5a

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- I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5a**
- II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5b-7**

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II PETER 1:5-11

To the extent the basic idea of John Calvin's thought is true, where is the delineation between our effort and God's work? What is His job and what is ours?

- Jn. 15, 1 Cor. I – we can't drum up courage/blessings – but need to be willing – be in the place where God can work these things
- Farmer provides seed and works the farm, God brings harvest – must guard mind/heart and where we focus
- Less about a line between but instead our agency embedded in His grace – watch line that demands clear categories in way that belittles it
- God desires His goodness reflected in us but not in a way that brings the focus back on us
- Be careful about “simple shapes” when need some holy wonder because of divine complexity
- Our perspective vs. His, John 6:29 – His words hard to take/understand. But we are called to believe, to seek Him, Matt. 5 - poor in spirit, mourn, not sufficient in themselves.
- Must always have both in mind as we live by faith or not obeying

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To the extent the basic idea of John Calvin's thought is true, where is the delineation between our effort and God's work? What is His job and what is ours? (CONTINUED)

- Sword of the God and Gideon/David's mighty men defeated many – and the Lord brought a great victory
- Gal. 2:20
- God initiates ever our works in us
- God glorified through faith – Heb. 11:6, disciples in boat – reprov'd for lack of faith
- Seems hard to separate the two
- Eph. 4:17-24 – identity with Christ, Rom. 6

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so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh **but according to the Spirit**. 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; **but if by the Spirit** you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 8:4, 13

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 2:11

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Therefore, **prepare 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. **14** As obedient children, **do not be conformed** to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, **15** but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior**; **16** because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

1 Peter 1:13-16

12 So then, brethren, **we are under obligation**, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—**13** for **if you are living according to the flesh**, you must die; **but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body**, you will live.

Romans 8:12-13

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that, in reference to your former manner of life, **you lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 **and put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Ephesians 4:22-24

So then, my beloved, just as **you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13** for it is **God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**

Philippians 2:12-13

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“We must insist both that it is God, by his Spirit, who makes us holy and that it is we, ourselves, who have the job of becoming holy.”

Douglas Moo

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“How can we think about progressive sanctification in a way that generates ministry traction? Here is a core premise: Ministry ‘unbalances’ truth for the sake of relevance; theology ‘rebalances’ truth for the sake of comprehensiveness. Put another way, because you can only say one thing at a time, a timely word must be a selective word focusing on the need of the moment. And this selective focus produces a kind of imbalance. But stepping back from the need of the moment, many things can be said, and this larger theological picture helps us maintain balance. The whole truth is as wide as human experience, as deep as the human heart, and as unfathomable as the God who weighs all things and intervenes in all things.”

David Powlison, *How Does Sanctification Work*” pp. 33-34

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How would we focus our energies on these character traits in a way that would evidence the work of God—a result of faith, meaning effort IN God's presence? What might that include OR what would be signs our growth is NOT a result of God's power or inside living relationship with God?

- Rom 4:18-20 – lifting up the promises of God
- By periodic spiritual check-ups that looks for which of these is missing
- Because healthy growth will have these flowing from + building on each other
- Where is evidence that the change/work done result of look beyond ourselves (faithful and joyful service)
- First direction we head when trying to grow in these shows source i.e.) prayer – dependence – shows where help comes from and who we are seeking to please
- Looking to grow in humility – are you praying for this
- Proverbs 2:4 fervor, zeal, work

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But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:11

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Thoughts on godliness and our responsibility to pursue it?

- All this starts with looking to God
- Can't be faked or worked on our own
- Living what we know about God – therefore, what is my life showing about what I believe about God
- Life empty without godliness
- True joy/peace
- Be careful about trying too hard to bring God “down” to us (relevance)
- See otherness of God

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Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. 32 A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, **“Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.”** 33 Answering them, He said, **“Who are My mother and My brothers?”** 34 Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, **He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers!** 35 **“For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”**

Mark 3:31-35

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Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, **fervently love one another from the heart,**

1 Peter 1:22

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Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, **fervently love one another from the heart,**

1 Peter 1:22

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Romans 12:10

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Romans 12:10

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, **for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;** **10** for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to **excel still more,** **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**

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What does family love include?

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**So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.**

Galatians 6:10

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Thoughts on brotherly-kindness/familial love and your responsibility as result of a gaze at Christ?

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Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Colossians 3:14

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“On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

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Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

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But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

1 Timothy 1:5-6

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and hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.** 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

Romans 5:5-8

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Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. 2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; 3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

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Thoughts on the work of love as a result of your gaze at Christ?

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What happens to these focuses in our daily lives? Where do they fit throughout our day, even in our desire to live and please God?

- Compete with other habits, so lose focus on them
- Content with amount we have of many of them
- Must connect these to our desire to live to please God; they are attached to divine nature God saved you to share; must ask Him to change our will
- These get lost in “fleshly” moments of day; takes “mind of Christ” to see them throughout daily tasks
- Perhaps so afraid we can't get it, that we miss the resources God has given to work these in our lives