

Putting it All Together

Lesson for Sunday, October 19, 2025

Review your Scripture memory...

INTRODUCTION:

(5 MINUTES)

- ⇒ Review the essential virtues with these simple definitions
 - Virtue – a commitment to be **Christlike**
 - Knowledge – a commitment to lifetime **study** of God & His Word
 - Temperance – a commitment to mortifying the **flesh**
 - Patience – a commitment to **persevering**
 - Godliness – a commitment to **standing** for Christ and the things of Christ
 - Kindness – a commitment to my **church** family
 - Charity – a commitment to serve the **spiritual** interests of others
- ⇒ Lead a brief discussion: Which of these has meant the most to you as we have studied them together?
- ⇒ For the last three weeks of our study of 1 Peter 1, we want to pull it all together.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Core Values
 - a. As we look at the list of essential virtues, how could we group them together?
 - b. There are three logical categories for grouping the essential virtues.
 - c. **Commitment** to Christ is our foundation.
 - i. The first two virtues form the foundation for Christian character.
 - ii. We must first be committed to cultivating the excellence of Christlikeness. Next is to develop knowledge.
 - iii. One cannot have Christlikeness without first deciding what you are going to pursue and then discover what it looks like.
 - iv. Commitment is the wholeheartedness of the Christian's life.
 - d. **Courage** for Christ is at the center of Christian character.
 - i. Self-control, endurance and godliness are the backbone of Christian character.
 - ii. Courage is the brave-heartedness of the Christian's life – the strength, boldness and fortitude of Christian character.
 - e. **Compassion** like Christ's is at the top.
 - i. It is the beauty and attractiveness of brotherly kindness and love – the crowning virtues on Peter's list.
 - ii. They form the trademark of Christian character.
 - iii. Compassion is the tenderheartedness of the Christian's life.
 - f. If we are to become the people that God has called us to be, we must develop the essential virtues. Our lives should proclaim a commitment to Christ, a courage for Christ and a compassion like Christ.
2. Our Commitment: The Cross-Centered Life
 - a. How are we to live in light of what we learned? What must we keep at the center of our lives as we work to add the essential virtues to our lives?
 - b. Read together 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.
 - c. "For the love of Christ constraineth us" – Whether Paul appeared to be out of control or under control, Christ's love for Paul held him in such a grip, that it

constituted the compelling force of **everything** he did. Paul was committed to Jesus!

- d. “They should not live unto themselves” – If we are saved, we are to no longer live for **self** but unto the One who “died for them.”
- e. The secret to developing the essential virtues – to becoming Godly – to being completely committed to Christ is to live a **cross-centered life**.
- f. Paul knew that Jesus, out of His great love, had given up His life for our sakes. Jesus had not acted out of self-interest. Instead, He willingly died for all.
- g. Because Christ died for us, we are to be completely committed to Him. Our lives are to be centered on His cross, and we should spend our lives pleasing Him.

3. The Self-Centered Life

- a. Our chief competition to living the cross-centered life is the **self**-centered life. The self-centered life is described in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. This is a description of our modern-day culture.
 - i. Vs. 2 – lovers of their own selves...
 - ii. Vs. 4 – lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God...
 - iii. Vs. 5 – looking spiritual on the outside but powerless on the inside...
- b. Paul is clear in the last part of verse 5 – the Christian is to turn away from self-centered living.
- c. The root of the majority of our problems is self-centered living.
 - i. This is the source of the frustration, guilt, anger, anxiety and despair that are so prevalent today – self-centered people trying to make life work their own way.
 - ii. True contentment is only achieved when Jesus Christ is at the center of everything we are and everything we do.
- d. Here’s the point we must each consider: We are all committed to something. We are either committed to Cross-Centered living or Self-Centered living. The choice is yours.

APPLICATION:

Everything turns upon the hinge of the cross.

- ⇒ We are saved because of the cross; we are sanctified because of the cross.
- ⇒ Why do we love Jesus? Because of the cross.
- ⇒ Why should we want to serve Him? Because of the cross.
- ⇒ Why don’t we at times? Because of love for self.
- ⇒ It is the cross that should compel us to the pursuit of Christlikeness and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Discuss how we can increase our commitment to the Lord Jesus...