

"STEWARDING GOD'S LOVE"

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Reminder: In this series, we are placing a special emphasis on *service* and *responsibility*—**our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.**

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it. Seek to be a faithful steward of God.

MAKE A COMMITMENT: WILL YOU COMMIT TO DOING WHATEVER GOD WILL SAY TO YOU IN THIS MESSAGE?

Premise: The perspective we maintain as we go through this life is of utmost importance. *Attitude* leads to *action*. Right thinking leads to right living. In order to live right we must think right. In order to live Godly we must think Godly. Our success in our pursuit of holiness is dependent upon a mind renewed with God's truth.

† Stewarding God's Mercy (Romans 12:1)

- Remember your Pardon—"the mercies of God" (v. 1)
- Remember your Pursuit—"a living sacrifice" (v. 1)
- Resist the Pull—"be not conformed" (v. 2)

† Stewarding God's Love (Ephesians 3:14-21)

GOAL: To live a life of faithful stewardship which results in God receiving all the glory.

I. The _____ (v. 14-15)

Paul's prayer is that each of God's children would understand God's love to a life-changing degree. The goal is to bring God glory as we learn to faithfully display the transcendent "*love of Christ*."

John 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are **My** disciples, if ye have love one to another.

II. The _____ (v. 16-19)

In order for this to take place we need to understand the process.

In these 4 verses, we see Paul praying for a *renewal* of the inner man; the indwelling Christ to be a *resident* Christ. Paul also prays for a deeply *rooted* kind of love to be displayed; and finally, a *revealed* Godliness. Each of these are a part of the process working toward the goal of bringing glory to God.

A. A _____ Inner Man—being Strengthened (v. 16)

The “*inner man*” speaks of the inner spiritual man. It is contrasted to the “*outward man*” which is the physical, decaying portion of man’s being (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

This *strengthening* comes as we humble ourselves, yielding our way to God’s perfect way (1 Peter 5:5b; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 4:13).

In this renewal process, the “*inner man*” is strengthened as we learn to abide in Christ, yielding to His perfect way.

B. A Resident Christ—being _____ (v. 17a)

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

John 3:30 “He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

2 Corinthians 5:15 And *that* He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.

Only one will feel at home in your heart—sin or Christ.

C. A _____ Love—being *Stabilized* (v. 17b-19a)

The process of living a Christian life that faithfully brings glory to God has its **roots** deeply in the **love of God**.

1. The double metaphor (v. 17b)

a. Agriculture—“*rooted in love*”

As Christians, we need to understand our need to be deeply “*rooted*” in the *Word of God* in order to faithfully display the *love of God*.

b. Architecture—“*grounded in love*”

Cf. Matthew 7:24-29 — “The wise man and the foolish man”

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because **He** laid down **His** life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

Romans 5:7-8 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **8** But **God** commendeth [*proved*] **His** love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us.

John 3:16 For **God** so loved the world, that **He** gave **His** only begotten **Son**, that whosoever believeth in **Him** should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Cf. Romans 8:31-39

2. The _____ —“*be able to comprehend*” (v. 18a)

3. The _____ —“the breadth, ...length, ...depth,
...height” (v. 18b)

God’s love is *sufficient* to save all, yet only *effective* in saving those who believe.

4. The _____ —“to know the love of Christ” (v. 19a)

This knowledge is a never-ceasing pursuit of the love of God. It has been described as an ocean without shores.

- D. A _____ Godliness—being Spirit-Filled (v. 19b)

Colossians 2:9 For in Him [*Jesus*] dwelleth all the fulness of the **Godhead** bodily.

Since all the “*fullness of God*” dwells in the Lord Jesus, then the more He dwells in our hearts, the more we will be filled with the fullness of God. This is the pursuit of holiness. This is the pursuit of Christlikeness. It is a daily pursuit.

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- III. The _____ (v. 20)

It is the Power of the Holy Spirit that is ever at work in our lives seeking to empower us in our pursuit of Christlikeness.

- IV. The _____ (v. 21)

Psalm 63:1-8

What is my next step?



9 Little Brooklyn Rd, Warwick, NY 10990

pastor@PIBCNY.com / www.PIBCNY.com / John Lashuay, Pastor