

The Pillars Of Christian Life

In living the Christian life there are certain great fundamentals, like pillars bearing up the weight of some mighty building.

These fundamental truths are **not** hard to discover. **They are love, loyalty, integrity, humility and faith, upon these rest all the highly complex of true Christian living.**

A wise person will simplify their life by concentrating on the pillars and having done this will not worry about the rest.

Life as we know it in our intricate civilisation can be deadly unless we learn to distinguish the things that matter from those that do not.

It is never the major things that bring us down, but invariably the multitude of trifling things which we mistakenly thought to be of major importance.

This is becoming more and more evident as many of our physical ills are being traced back to other than physical causes.

Doctors are learning that if they are to do their patients any permanent good they must minister to the mind as well as the body.

In the Christian life also we find this pattern repeated, a few important things and a burdensome number of unimportant things.

A true Christian who is being taught by the Holy Spirit, [**Romans 12:2; Galatians 5:22-25**] must look past the multiplicity of incidental things and find the few that really matter.

Matthew 22:36-40 [New King James] *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Jesus summed up the whole moral law as love to God and to other human beings, love being a pillar of Christian life.

Matthew 16:25 [New King James] *“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*

Loyalty to Jesus Christ is how we find salvation.

Paul repeated this pillar of Christian living, [**Acts 16:31**] faith in Jesus Christ’s sacrifice.

Romans 5:9-10 [New King James] *“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

We are saved by Jesus Christ living His life in us as a human being through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [Spirit of Christ – **Romans 8:9**] actively creating the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit, [**Galatians 5:22-25**] which are the characteristics of the One Triune God.

Philippians 2:1-8 [New King James] *“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition*

or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

Humility is another “pillar” of Christian living, [**Romans 12:3; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Peter 5:6-7**].

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This is the true act of humility, total surrender of our lives to our Saviour Jesus Christ. The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma”, meaning whole life, physical body, mind and “human” spirit, [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

1 Peter 1:3-25 [NIV] *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith, of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire, may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’ Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, ‘All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands for ever.’ And this is the word that was preached to you.”*

Peter includes all the major pillars of Christian living in this letter to Christians scattered throughout a hostile world, to give them hope and encouragement when under persecution.

Peter covers the major parts of life, salvation, persecution, God’s created family, family life, judgement.

The whole letter is one we should read and meditate on often as we seek to live the life that our Creator God desires we should.