

Discipleship - Session 6

Continue the 8 Characteristics Of A True Disciple Number 2 - Virtue

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. The first addition to faith must be virtue not knowledge.
2. Virtue is exhibiting correctness of character and behavior.
3. We are to display the virtue of Christ of the world.
4. We need to be committed to five things in order to display the virtue of Christ.

Assignment:

1. Continue ALONE prayer log. (One day -- 1/2 hour.)
2. Also go over the material you learned this session. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

Let us read again 2 Peter 1:1-15.

2 Peter 1:1-15

¹ Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**,

⁶ to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance **godliness**,

⁷ to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**.

⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of **these things**, though you know and are established in the present truth.

¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*,

¹⁴ knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of **these things** after my decease. (NKJV)

Characteristic Number 2 is **Virtue**.

Note: Virtue is before knowledge!

Virtue - Definition:

- Virtue is far better described than defined as we will soon see.
- My best definition would have to be: *Exhibiting correctness of character and behavior*.
- Dictionary definition: moral excellence, moral goodness, upright, conformity in life and conduct to moral and ethical principles

The Greek word normally translated “virtue” is used in only four verses in the entire New Testament. They are:

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any **virtue** and if *there is* anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things. (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:9

⁹But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim **the praises** of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (NKJV)

(The Greek word for **the praises** is the same word that is translated by the word **virtue** in all other places in the New Testament. Therefore, “**the praises of Him**” should be translated “**the virtue of Him**”.)

And the two verses of our text: 2 Peter 1:3 & 5

It is very important to note that according to 1 Peter 2:9, we are to display **the virtue** of Christ to the world!

To do this we must be committed to five things:

1. To personal purity
 - Remove all the impure from our lives
 - Acts 19:19
 - Deuteronomy 7:25-26
2. To the character of Christ
 - Romans 8:28-29
3. To the weaker brother
 - 1 Corinthians 8:11-13
 - Romans 14:21; 15:1
4. To others - “love your neighbor as yourself”
 - Philippians 2:3
5. To being a servant
 - Matthew 20:28
 - Philippians 2:5-8

SUMMATION STATEMENT: The first thing we are to add to our faith is virtue! We are to exhibit the virtue of Christ to the world. Our lives are to display the character and behavior of Christ to others. In all that you do ask, “Is this what Jesus would do?”