

STUDY PAK 10

INSIDE OUT

“The flame of Christian ethics is still our highest guide.”
~~ Winston Churchill ~~

I. THE INTERNAL PRODUCES THE EXTERNAL

True Christian ethics are a _____. Just as the Bible states in James 2:18 that internal faith will be seen by external works, the same is true of Christian ethics (of which external works are a part of). There must first be that which is right internally before it will ever manifest itself in a proper God-honoring way externally.

Let us look at what the Bible says about the internal need and internal production that produces an external Christian ethic.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
Galatians 5:22-23

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The fruit of the Spirit is produced _____ and then it is _____. We can love because we have love. We are joyous because we have joy. We conduct ourselves with a confident assurance because we have peace. We can be patient because we have the fruit of longsuffering within. We can be gentle because gentleness has been produced in the inner man. We can be good because God is good and his spirit has produced goodness within us. Our works show forth a trust in God because faith is within us. We can deal with life's difficulties with a meek attitude because of the internal meekness that is produced by the Spirit of God. We can have self control to do the right thing (even when the world tries to lure us to sin) because we have an internal temperance of the Spirit's control in our lives.

To attempt to live a life of Christian ethics without the Spirit of God's internal control and fruit production _____. I have often used the illustration of how silly to put the cart before the horse and hope to accomplish anything. The horse pulls the cart and the cart follows. This is the proper order. The Spirit produces internal fruit that is manifested in external action. This is the proper order.

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted

and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, ad depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, would without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:14-21

“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.” Psalm 51:6

“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:” Romans 7:22

“But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” 1 Peter 3:4

“Keep thy heart wit all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speakest. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.” Matthew 12:34-35

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2 Timothy 2:22

III. CHRISTIAN ETHICS IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

How can we _____ (Matthew 5:44) if we do not have internal love already?

How can we _____ (1 Thessalonians 5:16) if we do not already have internal joy?

How can we _____ (Romans 12:18) if we do not already have internal peace?

How can we deal with difficulty _____ (2 Corinthians 6:4-5) if we do not possess internal longsuffering?

How can we be gentle with those around us (2 Timothy 2:24) if we do not have _____?

How can we show forth goodness in a cruel wicked world (Romans 15:14) if we do not have the fruit of goodness within us?

How can we walk by faith (Romans 1:17) if we have no faith?

How can we, in meekness, help those that are in opposition to themselves (2 Timothy 2:25) if we have not an internal meekness ourselves?

How can we live a disciplined, God-honoring life (Ephesians 5:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 9:27) if the Spirit of God is not in control of our lives?

How can we live a life that exemplifies Christian ethics before a lost world without the internal production of the fruit of the Spirit?

THE ANSWER TO EVERY ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS IS: WE CAN NOT!!!

Therefore, we must have a proper internal relationship with God before we can produce a life of ethical Christian behavior.

“This I say the, Walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”
Galatians 5:16

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5

“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.” 1 Thessalonians 4:9

“For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.”
2 Corinthians 1:12

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Colossians 4:6

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:29-32

IV. LOVE AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS

We can also see that the fruit of the Spirit produces in our lives the most powerful motivation and purpose for living: LOVE. It is God's love that sent Christ into the world. It is Christ's love that led him to Calvary. It is the Spirit's love that convicts and draws us to salvation. (Three persons of the Godhead with one love.) It is this love that is produced in us through the Spirit that motivates us to love God and to love others. A by-product of godly love will _____.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the World, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth our fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.” 1 John 4:17-21

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”
Ephesians 4:1-6

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth:” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:19

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:” 1 Peter 1:22

“But whoso keepeth his work, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” 1 John 2:5

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” Ephesians 5:2

V. WALK WITH GOD

Let our walk be a walk that is in fellowship with God and therefore honors God. If we walk in fellowship with God, then the world will see Jesus in us. This is the _____ that others would see Jesus in us.

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos 3:3

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

“But as God hath distributed to every an, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk, And so ordain I in all churches.” 1 Corinthians 7:17

“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” 2 Corinthians 5:7

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16

“For we are his workmanship, created I Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,” Ephesians 4:1

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” Ephesians 5:2

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:” Ephesians 5:8

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,” Ephesians 5:15

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” Colossians 1:10