

## ***The Church of the Servant King***

### ***Review of the Spiritual Life of the Believer*** (Lesson SLR – 8E)

#### **Christian Integrity: The Spiritual Power Sphere of the Mature Believer Components #5 & #6 – Personal Love for God and Impersonal Love for Mankind**

##### **Introduction**

These two components of the Spiritual Power Sphere are closely related. Without personal love for God, there will be no impersonal love for mankind. To the extent that there is ANYONE toward whom you cannot exercise impersonal love is the extent to which you are lacking in your personal love for God. Sustained personal love for God is not something granted to the believer at salvation. All it takes to realize this is for the newly saved believer to suffer the first injustice or two back in the world or at the hand of other believers and God's fairness begins to be questioned. We've all been there – even as adolescent or more knowledgeable believers.

Component #5 – personal love for God – and Component #6 – impersonal (unconditional) love for mankind – are sometimes described as **motivational** and **functional** virtue, respectively. Virtue relates to those human characteristics of thought and principle which result from and are built upon the first four components of the Spiritual Power Sphere. This spiritual virtue cannot be duplicated or counterfeited by Satan's cosmic sphere of power (yet to be studied). Personal love for God motivates the believer in life and provides the basis for impersonal love for mankind. The combination of personal love for God and impersonal love for mankind is **virtue love**.

A Spiritual Rule: Component #1 (Yieldedness to God) + Component #2 (Objectivity) + Component #3 (Humility) + Component #4 (Momentum) => Virtue Love

##### **Development of Virtue Love**

- Several things are very destructive to virtue in the believer's life.
  - The arrogance of disillusionment (iconoclastic arrogance) is basically the misdirection of personal love toward mankind, or confidence toward people verses confidence in God.
  - Personal love toward man is normal, but not virtuous since it is not dependent upon the subject, but the object of personal love. In other words, in personal love toward a person, it is the person (the subject) that possesses the admirable virtue and even someone without virtue can personally love someone with virtue to a degree. However, that case of personal love will be unstable because it is not built upon a foundation of personal love for God and impersonal love for mankind, i.e. virtue love. **Point of speculation:** Could many of the problems in Christian marriage today be related to a lack of virtue love in Christians? (If a child never learns basic principles of humility in a spiritually dysfunctional family setting, the self-centered thought patterns will be destructive to any marriage – even a mature believer spouse can't substitute for the early failure of parents that has been parlayed into "strongholds" in the soul. The soul of a child is more pliable than the soul of an adult, thus it takes more suffering for God to get the attention of an adult).
  - Distraction from consistent intake of the Word of God. Without it, there will be no true personal love for God develop and mature. Personal love for God will be emotionally oriented, unstable, inconsistent, and not evidenced by impersonal love for mankind.

- Disillusion with God: We must appreciate God for who He is, not for what He can do for us. In other words, subjectivity, self-centeredness and a self-focused orientation to ones' spiritual life is characteristic of the person who has no true personal love for God.
- Personal love toward humans frequently becomes a tragic flaw in one's life, while impersonal love toward God is arrogance, megalomania, and superimposing one's standards on God. Obviously, the person who "tolerates" God has a problem with no humility (Component #3).
- Reaction to injustice –
  - Many new believers assume the world will be fair to them; if not, it's God's fault.
  - We react because we have no virtue to protect us from the attitudes that derive from injustice.
  - As ambassadors of Christ, reaction is out! Ambassadorship demands virtue, the virtue of impersonal love.
  - Reaction manufactures preoccupation with self, blames others for the function of our own free will in bad decisions, divorces from reality, and results in total loss of common sense. The believer will never mature who does not take responsibility for his/her own thoughts – regardless of the external stimuli.
  - In the immature believer, reaction can lead to crusader arrogance, involvement in social action, de-emphasis of Bible doctrine, social engineering, utopianism, and cosmic involvement. Every believer must face a certain number of momentum tests in the area of personal animosity and collective injustice.
- Frustration –
  - Frustration as a mental attitude is the result of arrogant preoccupation with self, disappointment in others, thwarted lusts, and vain ambitions. In other words, the mental attitude of frustration is the result of a lack of virtue love due to a lack of yieldedness, objectivity, humility and spiritual momentum in one's life.
  - Through poor judgment, bad decisions, and lack of acquired wisdom from doctrine (momentum), the believer manufactures his own frustrations.
  - Virtue love not only removes frustration, but it adds great happiness (Component #8 – Sharing the Happiness of God) and orientation to the spiritual realities of God's Word.
  - When frustration is prolonged, it results in disorientation to spiritual realities. The objective and over-arching perspective of the Angelic Conflict and man's purpose in time is lost to subjective thought.
- Personal Love for God
  - Some passages to consider – 1 Cor. 2:9; 1 Pet. 1:3-8; Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 16:22

1 Cor. 2:9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and {which} have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for **those who love Him.**" (NAS)

1 Pet. 1:6-8

- 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,
- 7 that the proof of your faith, {being} more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- 8 and though you have not seen Him, **you love Him**, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (NAS)

Rom. 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to **those who love God**, to those who are called according to {His} purpose. (NAS)

1 Cor. 16:22 If anyone does not **love** the Lord, let him be accursed. Maranatha. (NAS)

- Personal love for God motivates the believer to continue momentum in the Christian life.
- Personal love for God motivates the believer to die to self (Ro 12:1-2)
- Only the believer who has personal love for God will be truly capable of worshipping God in his/her soul. This capability is built upon a foundation of Truth in the soul that only occurs when there has been momentum (Component #4) in the pursuit of Truth.
- More Regarding the Relationship Between Components #5 (PL toward God) and #6 (IL toward mankind)
  - If the believer is harboring mental sins toward any member of the human race, he/she lacks personal love for God.
  - The spiritual believer cannot have personal love for God without manifesting impersonal love for mankind.
  - The person who has personal love for God and impersonal love for man (i.e. virtue love) is a pillar of stability and character and has a life that is not governed by emotions.
  - Only the believer who possesses virtue love will have sustaining power in the ministry into which the Lord has placed him/her. Without virtue love, the believer will become “stressed out” over serving others, fizzle, burn-out in Christian service, and/or produce human good.