

"The Building Block of Godliness" II Peter 1:3-9

Open: A Review of Temperance

- 1st Building Block **Faith** = *Making decisions based on the track record of God's ability to keep His promises to us.*
- 2nd Building Block **Virtue** = *A conforming of one's life and conduct for a more ethical and principled uprightness.*
- 3rd Building Block **Knowledge** = *the state of knowing something to be true; prove.*
- 4th Building Block **Temperance** = *Moderation, self-control*
- 5th Building Block of **Patience** = *A Willingness to suppress restlessness*

Tran:

- Godliness is a growth process, not an instantaneous transformation that takes place at the time of one's salvation.
 - Godliness is not sought after in order to attain or keep one's salvation. **Rom. 4:4-6** "*Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. [5] But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. [6] Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,*"
 - **Godliness is not a result of one's own ability, it is a result of yielding to the Holy Spirit.** When man attempts to attain godliness, he ends up looking spiritual but being empty. **II Tim. 3: 5** "*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*"
 - Godliness is to be a continual growth process that takes place. The more a person yields to the Holy Spirit, the closer that person will be to becoming what God intended. **Phil. 3: 20-21** "*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: [21] Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*"
- To many never become what God wants them to be because they become satisfied with what they think they've become. **Ps. 17:15** "...I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

I. Understanding biblical godliness.

- **Godliness** = A Conforming of one's life to the law's and nature of God [*God-like-ness.*]
- A. God's intention for our life was for us to take on the image of His Son. **Rom. 8:29** "*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*"
 - i. Physically our life is to resemble that of Jesus' while He was here on earth.
 - a) He went about doing good. – **Acts 10:38** "*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*"
 - b) He had compassion on the hurting. – **Mt. 14:14** "*And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*"
 - c) He went out of His way to be a witness. **John 4:4-15** – The woman at the well.

- ii. Spiritually our relationship with the heavenly Father is to resemble Jesus' while He was here on earth.
 - a) Jesus' sole desire was to please His Father – **John 8:29** *“And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”*
 - b) Jesus motivation was to do His Father's will. – **John 4:34** *“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”*
 - c) Jesus spent time getting to know His Father and encouraging others to get to know Him. **Mt. 11:27** *“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal.”*

B. God instructs us not to conform to the world's image, so we can be conformed to the image of God.

- i. God not only wants us to not be like the world; but He also wants us to be like Him. **Rom. 12:1-2** *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*
- ii. **You will not be like the world and like God wants you to be. You can only serve one master.** **Mt. 6:24** *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

II. Understanding the growth process of godliness.

A. **Step #1 = Salvation**

- i. When a person gets saved, they are re-gened (regenerated). They are given a new DNA. **John 3:5-7** *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*
- ii. Before we got saved, we were unable satisfy God's wrath. Once we got saved, we went from being unable to please Him to being able to conform to His image. **John 3:36** *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*
- iii. Before we got saved, we had the nature of our father (the devil); but once we got saved, we were given a new divine nature of our heavenly Father (God).
 - a) Before salvation = **John 8:44** *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.”*
 - b) After salvation = **Rom 6:16** *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”*

B. **Step #2 = Surrender**

- i. We cannot become what God wants us to be without there first being a death to the dreams and desires we have for our own life. **I Cor. 15:51** *“...I die daily.”*
 - a) Jesus had to crucify His desires **Lk. 22:42** *“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”*
 - b) We must also crucify our desires. **Phil. 3:10** *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”*

ii. It is a personal choice to take off the old man and to put on the new man.

a) **Eph. 4:22-24** "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; [23] And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; [24] And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

b) **Col. 3:8-10** "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. [9] Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; [10] And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

C. Step #3 = Service

i. Our regeneration does not depend on others being able to see a change, but there should be a change in our actions once we are regenerated. **II Cor. 5:17** "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

ii. Man cannot see my heart; so if my life is going to bring glory to God, then I am going to have to allow the change that took place on the inside to be seen on the outside. **James 2:17-18** "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. [18] Yea, a man may say, thou has faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith w/o works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

- God wants us to not just be saved, but to live our lives in such a way that we are testimony to those around us of God's grace. We do this by our visible works (our **godliness**).

iii. **Do not measure your godliness by those around you; and do not attempt to measure the godliness of those around you.** **II Cor. 10:12** "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Close:

- There is nothing that will keep a Christian from continuing to grow in his Christian life more than having a false sense of godliness.
- It is important we stay humble, confessed, and genuine in our Christian life.

I Tim. 4:7

"But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."

"Review Questions"

1. What is godliness? **A Conforming of one's life to the law's and nature of God.**
2. Godliness is not a result of one's own ability, it is a result of yielding to who? **the Holy Spirit.**
3. You will not be like the world and like God wants you to be. You can only serve one **????? Master**
4. What are the 3 steps in the growth process of godliness. **Salvation, Surrender, Service.**
5. Do not **??????** your godliness by those around you; and do not attempt to **?????** the godliness of those around you. **Measure**