

Essentials for Growth in Godliness, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philippians 2:9-11.

B. Paul focuses on the essentials for the Christian life: love, excellence, good works and glory.

II. All of Christian life begins with love. The great distinction of Christianity is that there is love between man and God. (1 Corinthians 13)

III. Excellence.

A. The idea is to be able to distinguish between good and best.

B. Most people live off their moods. They merely react to what is around them and are not able to choose for themselves.

C. People do not want to think.

D. Christians must be mind over mood to be excellent. (Romans 12:2, Philippians 4, Ephesians 5:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

IV. Integrity.

A. Christians are to be sincere and blameless. (2 Corinthians 2:17)

B. The Christian is to be real.

C. The Christian is not to live a life that causes others to stumble. (1 Corinthians 8, 10, Romans 14)

D. One must resist the pressure of the system if one is not to compromise. (James 1:27, 1 John 2:15)

E. We get sucked in the world by accommodation. We then legitimize. We assimilate. We participate. Finally, we are amalgamated.

F. We are called to integrity until the day Christ comes to reward us.

V. The result is always good works.

A. The fruit of righteousness is the fruit that righteousness produces. (James 3:18)

B. Good works should be the character of every believer. ((Romans 1:18, 15:28, 2 Corinthians 9:10, Ephesians 5:9, Galatians 5)

C. Good works come from Jesus. It is a work of God. (John 15:4)

VI. Glory.

A. We are to lead a life of integrity for the glory of God. (Ephesians 1)

B. The glory of God is the sum total of God's perfection, which we honor through praise.

Application Questions:

1. What are some areas that Christians tend to be weak on with regard to excellence?

2. How would you respond to someone who rests their spiritual security on their faith and not their lifestyle along with it?

3. Why is the glory of God an essential for Christian growth?
