

Self-Sacrificial Love and the Mind of Christ

SUBSTANCE



**Our frustration has
an explanation.**

(And our fears have an answer)



They don't just hound us alone:
They feed off of each other to ***weaken*** us

(like virtues support each other and ***strengthen*** us)

Matthew 6:19-24

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon..."

Matthew 6:31-34

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Discernment & Sanctification

Discernment:

Our eyes need to be "full of light"

Sanctified *from*:

We need to choose one master and leave another (Mammon/worldliness)

Sanctified *to*:

We must seek first his kingdom and righteousness

Promise

"To hunger and thirst is to seek him first."
(Dorky, but memorable)

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Isaiah 61:3

...and provide for those who grieve in Zion
—to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of
mourning, and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair. They will be
called ***oaks of righteousness***, a planting of
the Lord for the display of his splendor.

How do we ***seek his kingdom and righteousness***
&
become people of spiritual substance?

Substance

4 Marks:

- **Self-Sacrificial Love**
- **The Mind of Christ**
- Virtuous Freedom
- In Step with the Spirit

4 Practices/Mindsets:

- Welcoming the Ordinary
- Escaping Diversion
- Embracing Discipline
- Belonging to the Formational Community

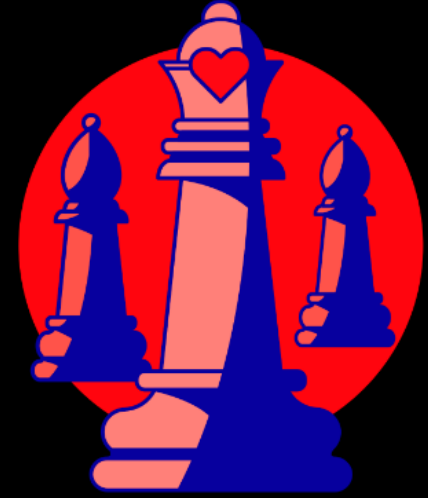
Last week:

Self-Sacrificial Love

This week:

The Mind of Christ

Review:



Self-sacrificial love is the goal of spiritual substance.

Love is the
summary of
the whole law
&
the Queen of the virtues.

Romans 13:8-10

(see also: Gal 5:5-6, 13-14)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

**(Justification/
Motivation)**

**(Application/
Example)**

Love

Summed up

Law/

Filled out

Commands

"Love God with all
your heart and love
your neighbor as
yourself."

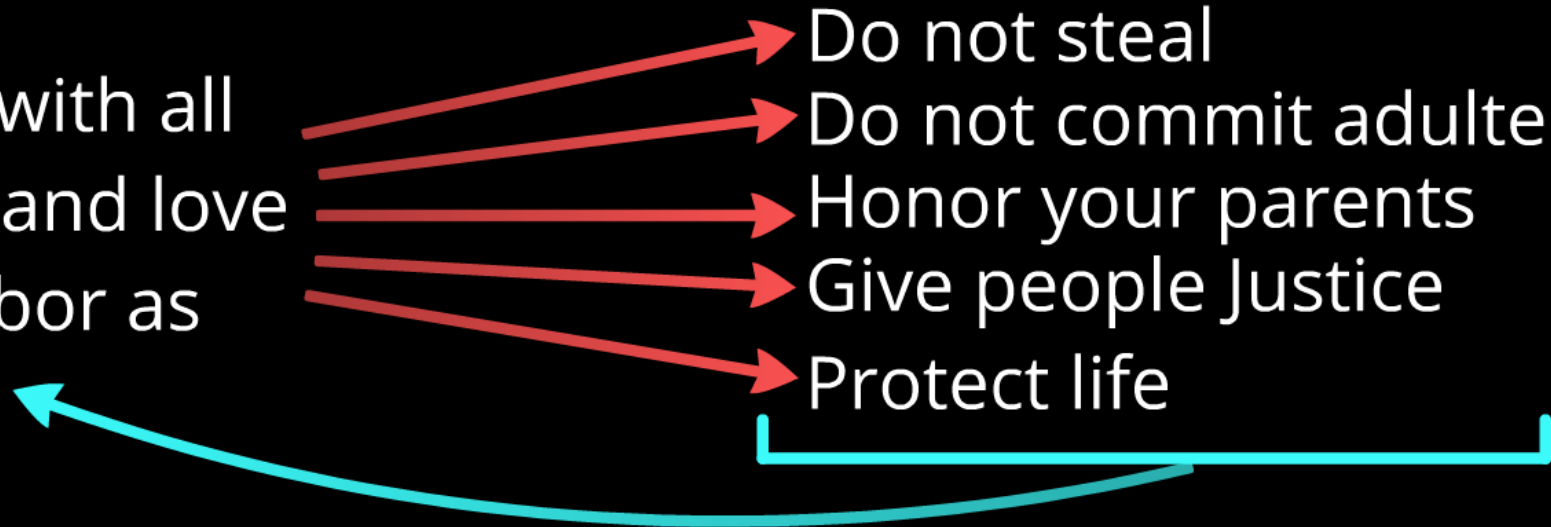
Do not steal

Do not commit adultery

Honor your parents

Give people Justice

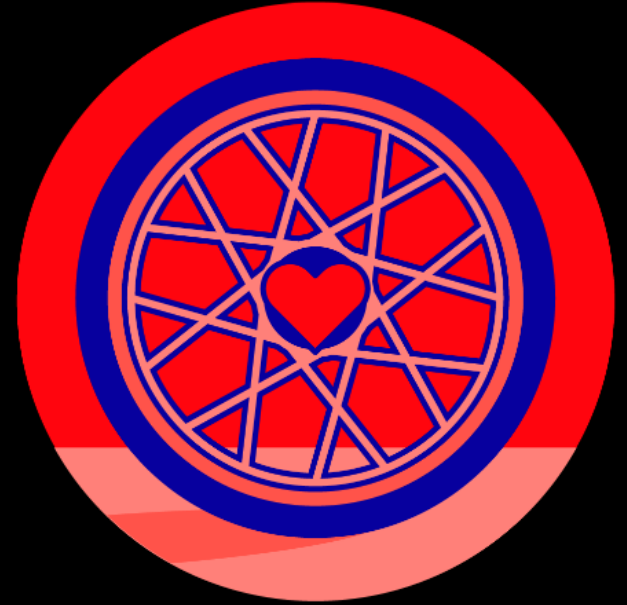
Protect life



Love is a virtue.

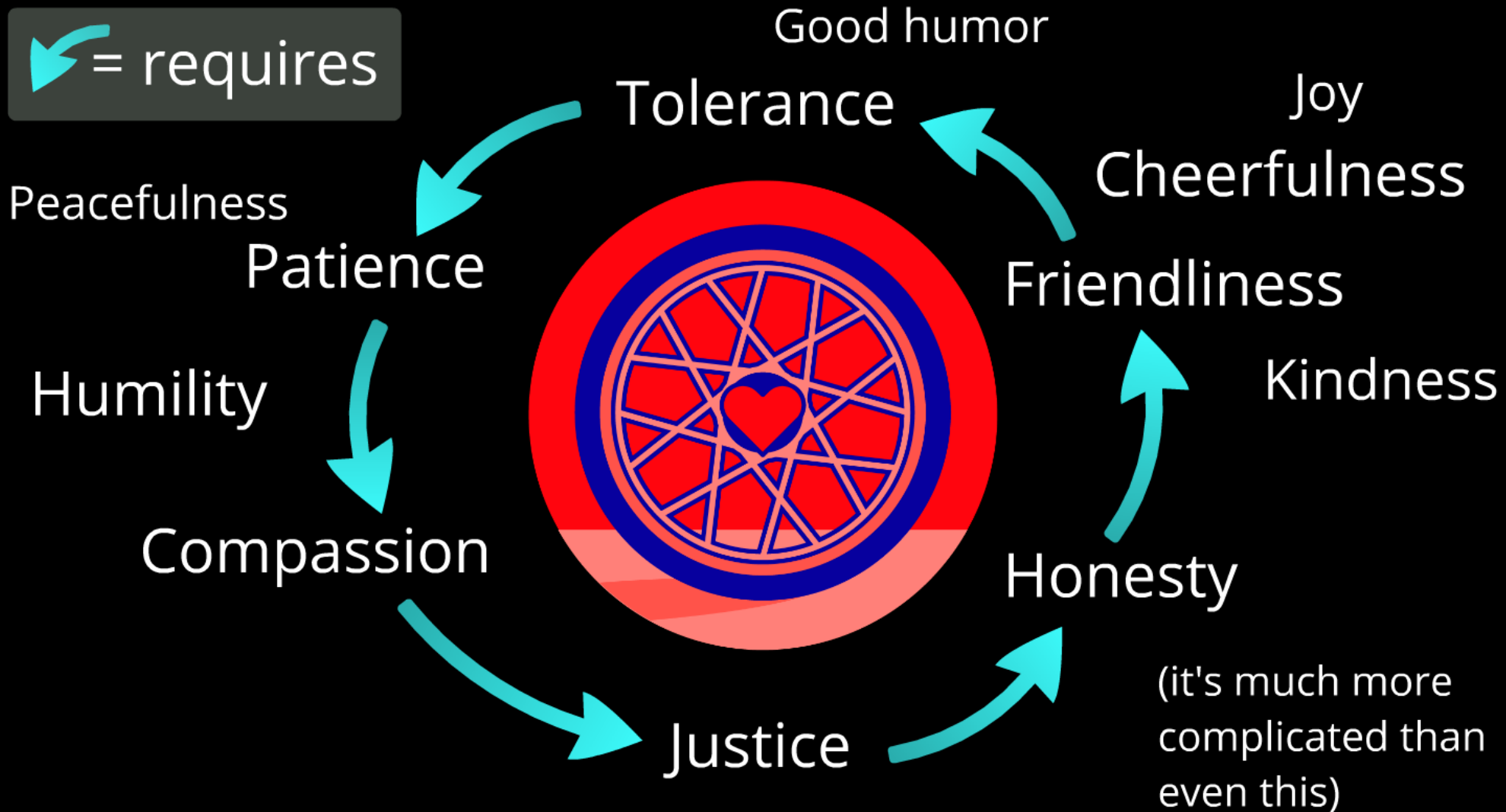
(a mark of character and right being)
(a possession of moral strength)

It is their Queen.



It is the hub of all the virtues.

↩ = requires



We've heard (or said ourselves):

"It doesn't have to be this complicated! Can't we just LOVE EACH OTHER?"

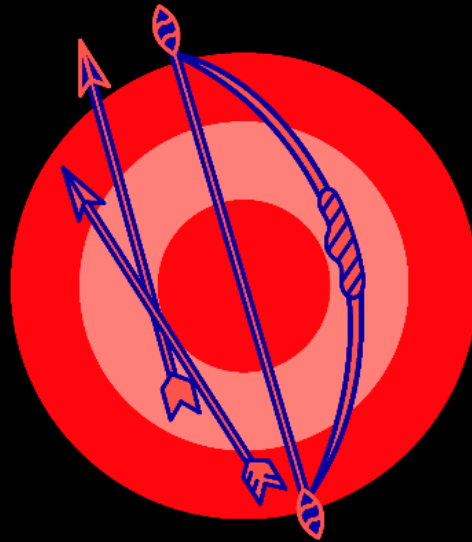
Exasperatingly,
it turns out...



Love is the **LEAST SIMPLE** thing we can do

(deep down you knew this- Love requires **SUBSTANCE**)

***How do we
hit the target?***

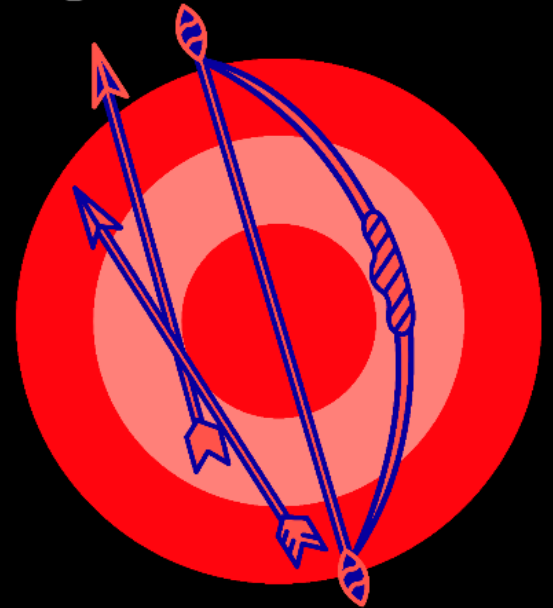


Godliness requires we
learn to think like God.

Having a mind for what he has a mind for...

"...we have the mind of Christ." 1 Cor 2:16b

2. **The mind of Christ is the sight of spiritual substance.**



1 Corinthians 2:6-12

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:6-12 cont.

" — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is ***being corrupted*** by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:8-11

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

God:

You will surely
die



Serpent:

You will know good
and evil, and be
like God.

Who was right?

Well, both...kind of

They were awakened to the knowledge of good
and evil and it destroyed them.

2 Missed Points:



1. **Substance** must be forged
2. **Truth** has an order

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers [and sisters], in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,¹ holy and pleasing to God—***this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world,***²
3***but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.***

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Colossians 3:1-7

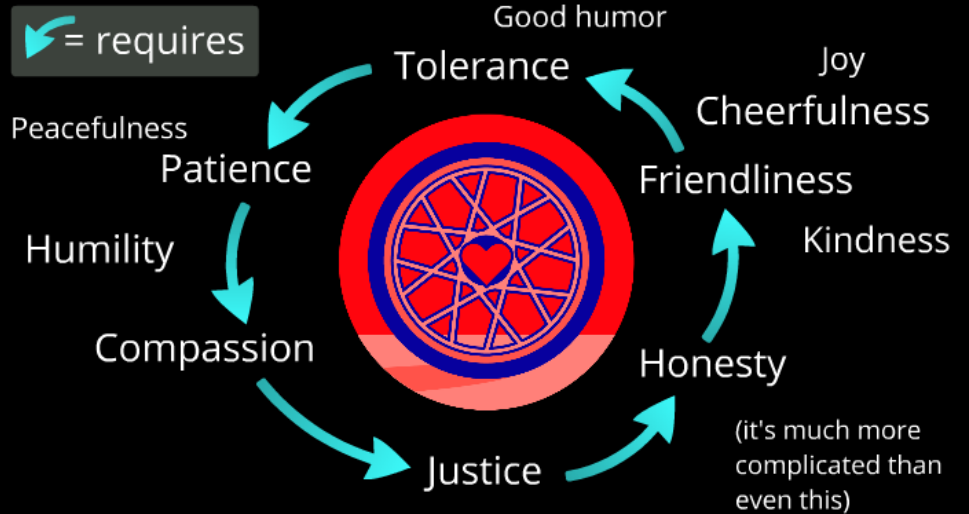
Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

Pattern of worldliness



The Old Self

Pattern of Christ



The New Self

Philippians 3:12

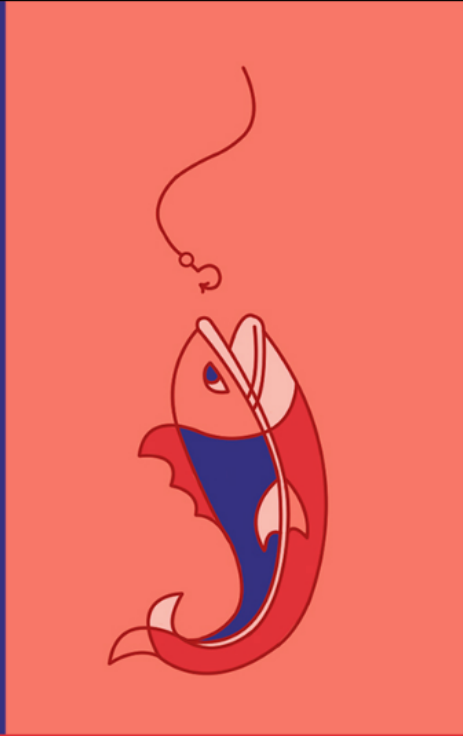
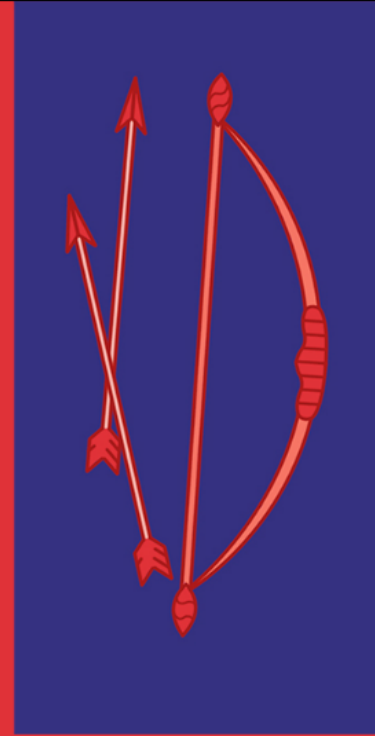
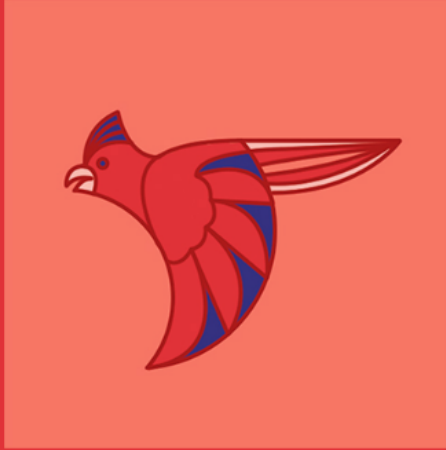
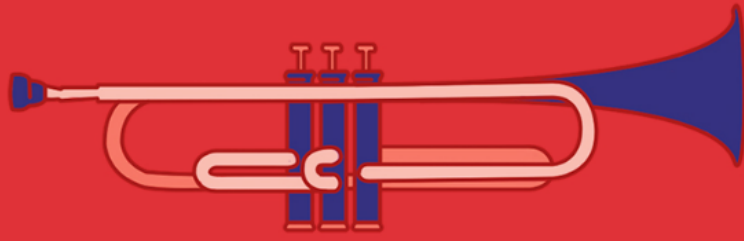
Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but ***I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.***

Make every effort (**2 Peter 1:5**)

Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure (**2 Peter 1:10**)

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And ***let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus***, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Self-Sacrificial Love and the Mind of Christ

SUBSTANCE