



The Ultimate in Christianity

By

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Teaching Notes are Bible studies we taught before GraceLife Ministries began publishing articles online in 1995. Some were presented as sermons, others as group studies.

Our hope is that these older studies will be a blessing to you in your life and ministry. Please use them in any way God leads you.

These teaching notes are from a radio series.

[These notes are from more than 45 years ago.]

The Objective

To glorify God in all things –

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. John 17:1-5

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God ... And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. Romans 15:5-7, 9-10

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:20

The Problem

A large number of people attending churches across America are suffering from a bad case of 'sub-normality.' It is 'normal' for a Christian to 'glorify' God in all that they do. It is 'not normal' for a Christian not to glorify God in all they do – whether it is a lack of spiritual power, love, joy, peace, or compassion.

On the surface we may think we're doing well, but from God's point of view we're not. Here are several problems 'within' the American church –

- adultery
- fornication
- incest
- depression
- anxiety
- worry
- fear

- hatred
- strife
- discord
- divisions
- contentions
- gossip
- stealing
- lying
- cheating
- pride

The Reason

- Claiming Christians (not saved, but pretending to be saved)
- Half-hearted Christians (giving God only a small part of their mind, heart, soul, and strength)

The Opportunity and Challenge

- There is hope for change
- Our evening seminars will teach you how to make changes in your life

Love

The 'ultimate' in Christianity is 'love.'

[Ask the congregation]

- What is the 'proof' of your salvation?
- How do we demonstrate the reality of God's love in our lives?
- What is Christian love?

Christian love is NOT –

- An impulse from feelings
- Always running with natural inclinations
- Spending itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered

Christian love IS –

- Selfless – love does not make good to self its end, but good to God and being good in general its end
- Opposed to sin – love will be opposed to all sin in every form and degree
- Just – love will do the right thing
- True – love will be truthful in every instance
- Compassionate – love will promote concern for the poor and needy
- Patient – love will be patient with everyone
- Meek – love will remember where it was before Christ found it
- Humble – love will be humble in all its ways
- Condescending – love will be willing to descend to the poor, the ignorant, or the vile for the purpose of securing their good

- Open and honest – love will treat every subject with fairness and honesty. It will oppose prejudice and pre-judgment
- Kind – love will be kind and gentle toward everyone
- Sincere – love is always sincere and opposed to hypocrisy
- Grateful – love will always be thankful in heart and grateful in action
- Direct – love will always act for the public good in cases where sin exists and where the public interests are at stake
- Unified – love will choose the same that God chooses. It is dedicated to the highest well-being of God and will be in harmony with the mind of God

Christian Unity

What is Christian unity? (Acts 2:41-46)

- Christian unity is gladly receiving the Word of God (41)
- Christian unity is continuing steadfastly in:
 - The Apostle's doctrine
 - Personal fellowship with other believers
 - The breaking of bread together
 - Praying with and for your brothers and sisters in Christ
- Christian unity is being together (44)
- Christian unity is supporting the needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ (45)
- Christian unity is being in one accord and having a singleness of heart (46)

What is your choice?

- Will it be the choice of the natural man?
- Will it be the choice of the 'supernatural' man? (Psalm 133:1)

[Ask congregation to pray to know God's will for their lives.]

Obedience

The next 'ultimate' in Christianity is 'obedience.'

A. What is God's will for our lives? [Ask congregation]

1. Ephesians 3:14-19
2. Ephesians 5:18
3. Ephesians 1:4
4. 1 Thessalonians 4:3
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
6. 1 Peter 1:13-16

B. How can we be holy? (Ephesians 5:1-17)

1. Walk in **love** (1-2)
2. Walk in **purity** (3-7)
3. Walk in **light** (8-14)

4. Walk in **wisdom** (15-17)

What is the result of this walk? (Ephesians 5:18-20)

1. The **fulness** of the Spirit (18)
2. The **joy** of the Spirit (19)
3. The **life** of the Spirit (20)

Sacrifice

The next 'ultimate' in Christianity is 'sacrifice.'

A. Who is our greatest example of sacrifice in the Bible? [Ask congregation]

B. Who else in the New Testament do we look to for an example in sacrifice? [Ask congregation]

1. Acts 20:17-38 (narrative style)
2. Philippians 4:9 (preaching style)

C. What example of the sacrificial life did Paul speak about in his letters to the early Church? [Ask congregation]

D. What are the five characteristics of a godly soldier? (2 Timothy 2:1-4)

1. Strong in Christ
2. Commits truth to faithful men
3. Endures hardness
4. Does not entangle himself with the world
5. Pleases God

Servitude

The next 'ultimate' in Christianity is 'servitude.'

A. What is the highest position that can be attained to in Christianity? [Ask congregation]

1. Mark 10:35-45 (Narrative style)
2. John 13-15 (Narrative style)

B. How can I be successful in every area of my life?

1. With the Lord – Be His servant
2. With your family – Be their servant to show Christ
3. With the brethren – Be their servant to show Christ
4. With those you work with – Be their servant to show Christ
5. With those you attend school with – Be their servant to show Christ

6. With your neighbors – Be their servant to show Christ
7. With your enemies – Be their servant to show Christ

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