

THE DISCIPLINES OF GODLY PEOPLE—PART 5  
FOUR MORE DISCIPLINES  
PHILIPPIANS 4:11; 2 PETER 1:5; etc.

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**Introduction**

We have been looking at some **DISCIPLINES** that ought to be in each of our lives in order that we might live godly lives that are pleasing to the LORD! I'm not going to review tonight for sake of time, but we have looked thus far at five **DISCIPLINES** in our first four messages.

The sixth **DISCIPLINE** I want to list, but I am not going to spend much time on it tonight because I preached on it just a little over 6 months ago!

**VI. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF CONTENTMENT!**

I preached a detailed message on this *Sunday P.M. of October 4, 2020* entitled **CONTENTMENT AND THE BELIEVER**. If for some reason you weren't in on that message, it is posted on our *SermonAudio.com* page where you have three options—You can view the Video, or listen to the Audio, or study the PDF copy of my notes!

In *Philippians 4:11*, Paul wrote these words from a Roman prison to the Church at Philippi: “...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

Did you get that. Paul said that he had “**LEARNED**” the matter of **CONTENTMENT**. So we need to understand that there is hope for all of us who face **DISCONTENTMENT** in our lives!

**In that message let me remind you that I said *CONTENTMENT* for the Believer is the God-given ability to *BE SATISFIED* with the loving provision of God in any and every situation.**

The **opposite** of **CONTENTMENT** is **DISCONTENTMENT**, but it could also be said to include **COVETOUSNESS**.

If we are not **CONTENT** with what God has given us, then it is likely that our lives will be filled with **COVETOUSNESS** for things that God never intended for us to have. If He did, He would give them to us!

This goes back to our **having the mind of Christ**. **Knowing God** along with **applying that knowledge of God** to our circumstances is key to **CONTENTMENT**!

**CONTENTMENT** will be ours when all that God is and all that he has done for us in Christ fills our heart!

We may find that we lack many things in this world from a human standpoint, but as Godly people we must work to develop the **DISCIPLINE** of **CONTENTMENT** lest we be drawn into both **worldliness** and **covetousness**!

**VII. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINES OF VIRTUE AND INTEGRITY!**  
**VIRTUE** and **INTEGRITY** go hand in hand with each other and speak to our **CHARACTER**!

Our **CHARACTER** is who we are when no one else is around!  
Our **CHARACTER** is who God knows us to be!

We live in a world that has greatly skewed the matter of **ethics** and is getting more so that way as we approach the coming of the LORD!

Though we as Believers are **IN THIS WORLD**, we are not to be **OF THIS WORLD**!

Regarding **VIRTUE**... Peter tells us in *2 Peter 1:5*—“*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith VIRTUE. . .*”

So the very first thing that we are to add to our **FAITH** is **VIRTUE** (A **SINCERE** desire to do what is right! In fact, a desire that brings forth a **SINCERE** effort to exude moral excellence in one's life!)

**INTEGRITY** speaks to the **SINCERITY** of that **VIRTUE**.  
“**Integrity**” means “**sincerity**”, it speaks of “**completeness**” or “**entirety**” (i.e. Nothing is missing.)

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**Remember when the LORD allowed Job to be tried by Satan?**

Here is what the LORD said to Satan about Job after the first round:  
*Job 2:3 – “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? **and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.**”*

Along with *VIRTUE* and *INTEGRITY* come some other benefits:

- 1. They Help Bring Forth A Godly Character!**
- 2. They Cause One’s Conscience To Be Good And Clear!**
- 3. They Help One To Have A Deep intimacy With God!**

This is why the *DISCIPLINE* of our *HEARTS* and *MINDS* (*that we saw last week*) is so important because in order to have *VIRTUE* or *INTEGRITY* in our lives **we must be guided by the Word of God!**

And the more that we are **immersed in** and **guided by** the Word of God, the more *VIRTUE* and *INTEGRITY* will describe our character.

**Having *VIRTUE* and *INTEGRITY* mean that we will be true in both our speech and our actions.**

*Proverbs 12:22–“Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.”*

*Ephesians 4:15–“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”*

**This also means that we must have the COURAGE to keep our word and COURAGE to stand up for our CONVICTIONS!**

*Psalms 15:4–“4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.”*

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Look at *2 Corinthians 4:1-2*

Paul is describing here the *VIRTUE* and *INTEGRITY* of his ministry!  
(See also *2 Corinthians 1:17-21; 2:17; 6:3-4ff*)

Paul **exuded moral excellence in his life**...that is what we mean by having *VIRTUE* and *INTEGRITY*!

Oh, may the LORD help us see how important it is to develop and maintain *VIRTUE* and *INTEGRITY* in our lives!

**VIII. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF PURITY!**

*PURITY* should go with having *VIRTUE* and *INTEGRITY*, but I want to deal with it separately because it is such a problem in the age we live!

*SENSUALITY* is one of the biggest obstacles to **godliness**, especially among Christian men.

We all need to realize that **A PURE MIND** is impossible to maintain if we view, read, look at, or listen to things that are filled with **SENSUALITY!**

We need to learn that from the fall of King David with Bathsheba! (*2 Samuel 11*) He wasn’t where he should have been and he was looking at something he had no business looking at.

We also need to develop the same awareness in our lives that sustained Joseph in the midst of great temptation from Potiphar’s wife.  
*Genesis 39:9–“...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”*

Again, it goes back to the need to *DISCIPLINE* of our *HEART* and *MIND* with the Word of God. Whatever we feed on with our *HEART* and *MIND* is what will have power over us. If we feed on the **sensual**, we will be **sensual!** If we feed on the **Spiritual**, we will be **Spiritual!**

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If you are struggling in this area let me give you some passages to **memorize** and **meditate** on to try to help you.

*(1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Ephesians 5:3-11)*

*Job 31:1–“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”*

*2 Timothy 2:22–“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”*

**IX. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF GOOD BEHAVIOR!**  
*(Philippians 1:27; 3:27-21)*

We need to **BEHAVE** in ways that are appropriate for Christians. (i.e. In ways that **don't bring shame** to the Gospel and to Christ.) (i.e. **Conduct that is becoming**, not unbecoming, to a Christian!)

Good behavior elevates our words.

Good behavior elevates our appearance.

Good behavior elevates our attitudes.

**Paul had a lot to say about Christians and their behavior:**

*Ephesians 4:1– I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk worthy** of the vocation wherewith ye are called,”*

*Colossians 1:9-10–“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might **walk worthy** of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

*1 Thessalonians 2:11-12–“11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, 12 That ye would **walk worthy** of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.”*

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*1 Thessalonians 4:1–“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God**, so ye would abound more and more.”*

**Peter also had some things to say about Christians and their behavior: 2 Peter 1:4-9; 3:11, 14**

**Good behavior means acting in a way worthy of the Gospel in how we present ourselves.**

Paul said in *1 Timothy 2:9-10– 9–“In like manner also, that women **adorn themselves in modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) **with good works.”***

Peter said in *1 Peter 3:3-4–“3 **Whose adorning** let it not be that **outward adorning** of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be **the hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, even **the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”***

**Good behavior means acting in a way worthy of the Gospel in our speech and attitude.**

*Colossians 3:12-14–“12 **Put on therefore**, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering**; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things **put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”***

If our behavior is **WORTHY** of the Gospel, the source of that behavior will be a heart authentically bowed in humble submission to Jesus as Lord!

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**Conclusion**

Once again, we come to the close of the message for today, but not to the close of this message. There are still some other disciplines we need in our lives if we are going to live lives pleasing to the Lord.

May I remind you that it all begins with having the ***DISCIPLINE OF THE GOSPEL*** in your life! (*Romans 10:1-3*)

Have you submitted yourself to the righteousness of God? His name is Jesus Christ and He gave His life and shed His blood for our sins!

He loves you and wants to be at the very center of your life!  
Come to Him today and give Him your life!

After you are saved, He also wants to bring these other ***DISCIPLINES*** into your life so that you can live Godly before Him.

Today we've talked about the **DISCIPLINES of CONTENTMENT, VIRTUE AND INTEGRITY, PURITY, and GOOD BEHAVIOR**

Are any of these areas ones that you need to work on?  
What has the Holy Spirit of God pricked your heart?  
Don't delay! Be obedient to Him today!