

Five Smooth Stones

P4 - The Master Rule of Life.

The Five Smooth Stones we are calling Core Values that define a Life Giving Christian are:

- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Fellowship
- Ministry
- Worship

Having each of these Core Values incorporated into our lives is the goal. Like any goal, there are steps to take to achieve it. If these are your "Christian Goals" what are the steps you are taking to reach them.

Transitioning from Going to Church to Being the Church involves having these Core Values well adapted into your lives.

Today I want to refocus on Fellowship. This is "sharing life together". **ACTS 2:42** shows how the first Christians maintained a high level of spiritual life and power.

ACTS 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

In order to have "fellowship" one with another, we must realize that it simply is a result of "loving one another."

THE MASTER RULE OF LIFE, "love one another."

NUMBER 1. The Command To Love One Another.

JOHN 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

1 JOHN 4:21

And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

WHY?

- A. We are "one Family." Other born again people are my "relatives."

EPHESIANS 3:14-15

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

- B. We are "one Body." We are "members together in one body."

ROMANS 15:5

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

- C. We have "one Lord and One Spirit." We are unique because of this.

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

NUMBER 2. The Source of Love.**ROMANS 5:5**

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Motivated from within by the same thing that moves God

- A. Love motivated God to redeem us. No less a force is in you.

JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

- B. The very spring of our actions is the love of Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14 JB PHILIPS

The very spring of our actions is the love of Christ. We look at it like this: if one died for all men then, in a sense, they all died, and his purpose in dying for them is that their lives should now be no longer lived for themselves but for him who died and rose again for them.

C. Jesus was “moved with compassion.”

MATTHEW 14:14

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

NUMBER 3. The Extent of Our Love.

1 JOHN 3:10-16

In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother[a] abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

- A. Lay down our lives for our brethren in Christ.
- B. We have to learn to love to this extent.
- C. As new born babes in Christ we are still selfish.

1 PETER 2:1-2

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

D. Mature believers can love to this extent. **VS. 7** “and KNOWS God.”

1 JOHN 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

E. Taught by God, from within

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

NUMBER 4. The Look of Love.

What does our love look like in practical terms?

A. Prefer one another

ROMANS 12:10

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

B. Take to oneself, admit to friendship or hospitality.

ROMANS 15:7

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

C. To put in mind

ROMANS 15:14

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

D. Help carry

GALATIANS 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

E. Put up with

EPHESIANS 4:2

with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

F. Forgiving one another

EPHESIANS 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

G. Teach and admonish

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

H. Forsake, provoke, exhort" I can't forsake my family.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

NUMBER 5. The Effect of Love.

JOHN 13:35

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- A. A powerful witness to "all men."
- B. The world is love starved and looking for it in all the wrong places.
- C. Let them find it in the Family of God.

CONCLUSION

PHILIPPIANS 3:15-16

Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

Live by this rule.