

Seven Steps To Christian Love

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I. Introduction

- A. Romans 5:1–15—A Spirit baptized believer has the whole of God’s love poured into his heart. Love is expressed in character. We cannot have true Christian love apart from God’s Word.
- B. 1 John 2:3–5—This is a two-edged Scripture:
 - 1. In keeping the Word of God, we are demonstrating our love for God
 - 2. Also, as we keep His Word, His love is brought to perfection in us

II. 2 Peter 1:1–8—An unfolding of God’s provision:

- A. v. 2—The Christian life is a life of multiplication, of continual growth (John 17:3)
- B. v. 3—God’s divine power has already given us everything we are going to need for time and eternity, for life and godliness.
- C. v. 4—The provision is in the promises. Through these promises we are to become partakers of God’s divine nature.
- D. v. 5–7—The Christian life demands a total commitment to God’s objectives. The basis of the Christian life is faith (believing), then we have to follow seven steps up to divine love:
 - 1. Virtue—excellence, the first thing we add to our faith is excellence in what we ought to be doing. The best in our walk of life.
 - 2. Knowledge—of God’s Word and way.
 - 3. Temperance—self-control, we do not let emotions control us.
 - 4. Patience—endurance.
 - 5. Godliness—where our relationship to God is real to the people around us.
 - 6. Love of the brethren—it is not easy to love our fellow believers, because they create the worst problems for us. But it must be accomplished.
 - 7. Charity—divine love: loving our enemies. When we have arrived here, our character has been fully developed.