

John # 51

“It’s As Cruel As the Grave”

*John 4:1-6; James 4:6-10*

**Spiritual maturity, the goal of the Christian life is reached through consistency in the experiential plan of God; it’s where we develop capacity for life, love and true lasting happiness a.k.a. greater-grace beyond God’s faithful living grace support of all believers.**

And submitting to God is simply drawing near to Him through the study of the mind of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and as a result, He will draw near to us meaning that our understanding of God will grow to such an extent that we will experience a greater intimacy with Him due to our newly acquired capacity.

*This is the single-minded approach that guarantees that our Lord will lift us up from the ever-alluring dredges of Satan’s world system.*

And so, either we continue in learning and applying the mind of Christ and enter the greater-grace life or we passively neglect, then actively disregard and finally ultimately violently reject the plan of God and enter into full-blown rebellion.

**According to the integrity of God, we are right here and right now members of the Royal Family of God if we’ve expressed faith alone in Christ alone through His grace alone and we therefore, have the very real potential to become experiential spiritual aristocrats known as the ‘Friends of God.’**

*James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God.*

*Through his desire to remain focused and avoid distraction, Abraham was able to resist the temptation of self-centeredness by trusting in or choosing to believe God’s Word, so therefore, he attained an honorable status in his soul that glorified the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The integrity displayed in the quality of the mature believer’s life is a powerful testimony to God’s grace because the mature Christian realizes that all he has and depends on entirely is Jesus Christ’s saving work and His gift to him of experiential, abiding, intimate fellowship.

**Integrity is a state of complete honesty and purity; a soundness of moral character with uncorrupted virtue, especially in relation to truth and the expression of fairness.**

Integrity is avoidance of deception by remaining loyal to truth in three categories: 1. God’s established laws for both unbeliever and believer, 2. The Gospel of Jesus Christ for unbelievers and 3.

**Biblical truth for believers.**

*Our consistent use of God's power demonstrates our loyalty to the absolute truth of His designed plan.*

**In His commands for us in the Bible, God has given us His prescription for developing integrity so that from His own integrity, He may share His own happiness with us both now and forever!**

**1. Jealousy removes all happiness from the believer.**

**You can change locations, jobs, husbands, wives, friends or churches but you will never find happiness as long as you carry mental attitude sins with you.**

***2. Jealousy is the cruelest of all sins.***

**Jealous people make all people around them miserable.**

**3. Jealousy destroys the relaxed mental attitude.**

**4. The Pharisees were always jealous of the Lord Jesus *Matt 27:18 "For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him."***

***5. The Lord Jesus leaves the area because one cannot minister to a jealous congregation.***