

Message 5

# A NORMAL AND PROPER CHRISTIAN PRACTICE FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

**Philippians 4:9** The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.

## I. PURSUING BY FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER

**Matthew 6:14-15**

**14** For if you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you also;

**15** But if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will your Father forgive your offenses.

**Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

**2 Corinthians 2:10** But whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *it is* for your sake in the person of Christ;

## II. PURSUING BY CULTIVATING A PERSONAL, INTIMATE AND HIDDEN LIFE WITH THE LORD

**Song of Songs 1:2** Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.

**Matthew 14:23** And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And ... He was there alone.

**Matthew 6:5-6**

**5** And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full.

**6** But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

**Isaiah 37:31** And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

## III. PURSUING BY HUMBLING ONESELF AND REJECTING ALL FORMS OF PRIDE

**James 4:6** ...God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

**Philippians 2:3** Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith,...

## IV. PURSUING WITH COMPANIONS AND BY ASSEMBLING TOGETHER

**Ruth 1:15-17**

**15** And she said, Your sister in law has now returned to her people and to her gods;...

**16** But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you.... For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

**17** Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried....

**Hebrews 10:25** Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...

**2 Timothy 2:22** But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

## V. PURSUING BY TRUSTING IN THE LORD'S LOVE AND WISDOM, AND FULLY ACCEPTING HIS SOVEREIGNTY AND WAYS

**Romans 8:18, 28-29, 31, 38-39**

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed upon us.

**28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

**29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son,...

**31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers

**39** Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**1 Corinthians 7:24** Each one, brothers, in what status he was called, in this let him remain with God.

**1 Corinthians 12:18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.

**Philippians 1:19** For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

## **VI. PURSUING BY SHEPHERDING OTHERS**

**John 21:15-16** Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs....Shepherd My sheep.

**1 Pet. 5:2** Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion but willingly, according to God; not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly;

**1 Corinthians 13:4a, 7**

**4** Love suffers long. Love is kind ....

**7** It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Matthew 9:10-13**

**10** And as He was reclining at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and reclined together with Jesus and His disciples.

**11** And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with the tax collectors and sinners?

**12** Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.

**13** But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

**Galatians 6:1-2**

**1** Brothers, even if a man is overtaken in some offense, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, looking to yourself lest you also be tempted.

**2** Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ....

**1 Corinthians 12:22-25**

**22** ...the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

**23** And those members of the body which we consider to be less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor; and our uncomely members come to have more abundant comeliness,

**24** But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

**25** That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassions and God of all comfort;

**4** Who comforts us in all our affliction that we may be able to comfort those who are in every affliction through the comforting with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

## **VII. PURSUING BY TREASURING THE ONENESS OF THE SPIRIT FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**Psalms 133:1** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!

**Psalms 133:2** It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;

**Psalms 133:3** Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

**Ephesians 4:1-4**

- 1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,
- 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,
- 3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
- 4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling....

**VIII. PURSUING BY RUNNING THE RACE WITH ENDURANCE---DAILY,  
SLOWLY AND LITTLE BY LITTLE**

**Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore let us...run with endurance the race which is set before us, looking away unto Jesus...

**Psalms 88:9** My eye wastes away at the affliction; / I have called out to You, O Jehovah, every day; / I have spread out my hands to You.

**Exodus 16:21a** And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating

**2 Cor. 4:16** ... we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

**Luke 9:23** ...If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

**Acts 2:46** And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,

**Exodus 23:29-30** I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the animals of the field multiply against you. **30** Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have become fruitful and inherit the land.

**Revelation 3:8** ....you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.

**Proverbs 24:16** For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again....

**Joel 2:25** ...I will restore to you the years that the locusts have eaten...