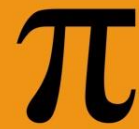


Love & fruitfulness

2 Peter 1:7-12



Holy
Maths

Small Group Study, week commencing 28th November 2022

For starters

Outside of the persons of the Trinity, who would you point to as an example of love? What is it about him or her that makes them such a good example?

Introduction

We come to the final part of Peter's equation for a fruitful Christian life, i.e.

faith + goodness + knowledge + self-control + perseverance + godliness + mutual affection + love (verses 5-7) = effective and productive knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (verse 8)

In this study we think about love, but also we step back from the specific qualities that Peter mentions and remind ourselves of some of the other themes that are key to a fruitful Christian life.

Read

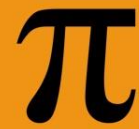
Read [2 Peter 1:3-12](#).

Study

1. The list of character qualities we must add to our faith concludes with 'love' (*agapē*) - an active, sacrificial service for others. It is the quality of love that God has shown us, and expects us to show him and others, including our enemies. Why is love at the 'top of the ladder of virtues', here and elsewhere (e.g. 1 Corinthians 13:13), and the 'first of the fruit' (Galatians 5:22)?
2. A commentator has written, "It is only when we do what love demands that we have the feeling that love requires." Discuss.
3. Peter writes that the purpose of making every effort to add all of the character qualities in increasing measure to our faith is to "keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 8). What does it mean to be 'effective' and 'productive' in our knowledge of Jesus? How does adding the character qualities to our faith contribute to this?

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4. Re-read verses 9-11. Do you find them comforting or challenging? How?
5. What do we need reminding of and why (verse 12)?
6. What does it mean to confirm our calling and election (verse 10)? Why do we need to do it?
6. Peter brackets his completed list of seven character qualities with two themes: hard work (“make every effort”, verse 5) and continual growth (“increasing measure”, verse 8). Looking back over the list, and thinking back over the series, which quality presents you with the greatest personal challenge? What specific measures could you take to grow in that area?

Prayer

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Give thanks to God that you have everything you need!

Pray that you will, with God’s help, use the resources at your disposal and make every effort to add to your faith the character qualities that will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of Jesus.