

THE DISCIPLINES OF GODLY PEOPLE–PART 6
PROPER RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSEVERANCE
MARK 12:29-30; HEBREWS 12:1-3

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Introduction

Thus far I have brought 5 messages in this series as we have taken a look at 9 of the **DISCIPLINES** that we need to have in our lives if we are to be a Godly people. I'm not going to review for the sake of time, but if you have missed any of the messages let me encourage you for your own sake to go back listen to what you have missed!

This evening we are going to pick up with **DISCIPLINE** number 10:

X. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF PROPER RELATIONSHIPS!

To be all that God wants us to be, we must put some effort into our various relationships!

A. Our Relationship With The LORD!

In order for our other relationships to be proper we begin here.

1. Loving The LORD!

Deuteronomy 6:5–“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Mark 12:29-30–“29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”

2. Trusting The LORD!

Proverbs 3:5–7–“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

3. Obeying The LORD!

Romans 6:16–“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

2 Corinthians 10:5–“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

- B. Those Of Us Who Are Married Must Have A Proper Relationship With Our Spouse! (*Ephesians 5:25-31*)**
Both husbands and wives need to live out *Ephesians 5:25-31*.
- C. Those Who Are Fathers Need To Live Out *Ephesians 6:4!***
- D. Those Who Are Children Need To Live Out *Ephesians 6:1-3!***
- E. Those Who Are Employees Need To Live Out *Ephesians 6:5-8*.**
- F. Those Who Are Employers Need To Live Out *Ephesians 6:9*.**
- G. Those Who Are Part Of The Church Need To Live Out *Hebrews 13:7, 17*.**
- H. Those Who Are Pastors Need To Live Out *1 Peter 5:1-4*.**
- I. We All Need To Live Out The Second Great Command!**
Mark 12:31–“And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”

Matthew 7:12–“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

And on and on we go.

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XI. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF PERSEVERANCE!

(Hebrews 12:1-3)

What PERSEVERANCE involves is FAITH IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD WHATEVER OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, even in the face of extreme adversity so that at NO TIME we any quit in us!

Hebrews 12:1-3 presents to us FOUR THINGS it takes to develop PERSEVERANCE:

A. We Must Look Back To Those Who Have Already Done It!
(Vs 1a)

The cloud of witnesses that we are compassed about with speaks of those in *Hebrews 11*, the “*Hall of Faith*” chapter.

Many of those mentioned in *Chapter 11* are said to have PERSEVERED through some great trials. Nevertheless, they KEPT THE FAITH by submitting themselves to God’s will and believing in God’s goodness!

We too can develop PERSEVERANCE by daily submitting to God’s will whether what we are facing involves just some irritating, insignificant duties or whether it involves some great suffering of some kind or something somewhere in between!

PERSEVERANCE involves submitting to God in our trials while trusting him to be GOOD, WISE, MERCIFUL, JUST, KIND, LOVINGLY OMNISCIENT, OMNIPRESENT, and OMNIPOTENT!

B. We Must Lay Aside Some Things In Our Lives! *(Vs 1b)*

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us. . .”

1. Laying Aside The Weighty Things We Struggle With!

What is a weight? Something that puts a drag on us and causes us to expend unnecessary energy!

Some things are not necessarily sin in our life but they can weigh us down so that we can’t properly run the race God has for us!

2. Laying aside the sin that so easily besets us!
We know what sin is!

a. *Romans 3:23*—“23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Sin means “to miss a mark.”

b. *1 John 3:4*—“4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

Sin means “to overstep a forbidden line.”

c. *Romans 14:23*—“...whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”

So, if we are walking or living by sight rather than by faith, that is sin.

Easily besetting sins are those areas of sin in our lives that we seem to keep having trouble with! We must lay them aside! Easier said than done, but doable with the LORD’s help!

We Must Look Back To Those Who’ve Done It!

We Must Lay Aside Some Things In Our Lives!

C. We Must Run The Race God Has Given To Us! (1c)

“...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Who sets the race before us? God does! (*Philippians 3:7-15*)

We must run the race that is set before us with patience or endurance! (That is PERSEVERANCE!)

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D. We Must Keep Our Eyes Fixed On Jesus! (Vs 2-3)

Think about this...in all that Jesus suffered, there never was a time that He did not trust the Father.

1. Jesus Looked At The Final Picture!

Romans 8:18–“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

2 Corinthians 4:17–“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

1 Peter 1:6–7–“6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

2. Jesus Is Our Example! (1 Peter 2:19ff)

He is the **Author** and **Finisher** of our faith!

Romans 8:29–“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

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Have you submitted yourself to the righteousness of God or are you going about trying to establish your own righteousness?

The righteousness of God is the Lord Jesus Christ and Who gave His life and shed His blood for our sins! Turn from your sin to the Saviour. (Repentance!)

If you do that, He promises to give you eternal life and abundant life.

That abundant life is found as God brings these other **DISCIPLINES** into your life so that you can live Godly.

Today we’ve talked about the **DISCIPLINE OF PROPER RELATIONSHIPS** (with God, Family, and Others) and the **DISCIPLINE OF PERSEVERANCE**. (i.e. **Faith in the goodness of God whatever our circumstances**, even in the face of extreme adversity such that we don’t quit!)

Is there anything the Holy Spirit pointed out to you as an area you need to work on? If so, be obedient to Him and get back to where you need to be!

Conclusion

We need to see that these two **DISCIPLINES** that we’ve looked at this evening along with the other nine **DISCIPLINES** that we’ve covered thus far need to be in our lives if we are going to live lives pleasing to the Lord.

May I remind you that it all begins with having the **DISCIPLINE** of the Gospel in your life!