

Grace Upon Grace

Session One

Called to Holiness
Spring 2005

Cognitive Training

- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

God's beauty is His Holiness

- Psalm 29— *Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
- “God is Trinity in whom all difference is possessed as perfect peace and unity, the divine life might be described as infinite beautiful music, creation must be received before all else as gift and as beauty.” “Gods gracious action in creation belongs to that delight and pleasure the Trinity enjoys from eternity. And creation is the outward and unnecessary expression of that love” - David Bentley Hart in *The Beauty of the Infinite* informs us

Sum of God's Attributes

- As God's name sums all His attributes; it is the “Holy Name”.
 - “Holy and awesome is his name!” – Psalm 111:9
 - “Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. [Or Let your name be kept holy]” Matthew 6:9
 - “[Holiness] may be said to be a transcendental attribute that, as it were, runs through the rest, and casts luster upon them. It is an attribute of attributes.”
– John Howe, 1670
- No other attribute is repeated thrice - Spurgeon

Attribute of Attributes

- Qualifies his attributes and actions above our own (justice, wisdom, truth, promises, righteousness, power, kindness, mercy, joyfulness, patience, jealousy, etc. are all the “holy version”).
- *“As God’s power is the strength of His perfections, so His holiness is the beauty of them: as all would be weak without almightiness to back them, so all would be uncomely without holiness to adorn them” – Charnock*
- *“brings excellence [‘out doing’] to all His other perfections, without them they would sullied and lose their honor... as at the same instant the sun should lose its light, it shall also lose its heat, strength and regenerative energy too.” – AW Pink*

No other way to know God

- “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord” – Hebrews 12:14
- “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” - Matthew 5:48
- “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” - 1 Peter 1:15-16

Our Calling

- “For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness” -- 1 Thessalonians 4:7
- “Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” -- 2 Corinthians 7:1

2 Peter

- Likely Peter's last letter
- Chapter 1
 - Practices for making your calling and election sure
- Chapter 2-3
 - False Teachings and Teachers
 - Disheartened in waiting for the final completion

Foundation of Truth

(2 Peter 1:1-4)

- The same precious faith
- Destined to multiply grace and peace
- God's divine power has given us all things we need for life and godliness
- We are called (and attracted) to the glory and virtue of Jesus Christ
- Exceedingly great and precious promises have been granted to us

More on the promises

- Through them we:
 - Partake in the divine nature
 - Escape the corruption that is in the world due to lust
- Promises:
 - Eternal life and an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade (1 Peter 1:3-5)
 - The fulfillment of salvation and grace when Jesus Christ is revealed (1 Peter 1:9,13)
 - The Holy Spirit (Luke 23:49 “clothed with power from on high”; John 14:26 – the comforter, teacher and reminder)
 - Communion with God (John 14:20)

Symphony of Grace

(1 Peter 1:5-7)

- Faith
- Moral goodness (virtue)
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Steadfastness
- Godliness
- Brotherly-love (Philia)
- Love (*Agape*)

Spring 2005

SFC Adult Ed - Called to Holiness

Called to Holiness

Symphony of Grace	Faith	Virtue	Knowledge	Self-Control	Steadfastness	Godliness	Brotherly Love	Selfless Love
	Faith			Hope			Love	
Theological Virtues								
Four Loves	<i>Eros</i> Instinctive 'selfish' passion (needful)			<i>Storge</i> Instinctive compassion			<i>Philia</i> Meditative mutual attachment	<i>Agape</i> Meditative selfless attachment
From the Word Incarnate Himself (Hint: Read across as one thought)	John 7:17 (Amplified Bible) If any man desires to <i>do</i> His will (God's pleasure), he will <i>know</i> (recognize, and can tell for himself) whether the teaching is from God or whether I (Jesus) am speaking from Myself and of My own accord and on My own authority			Luke 21:17-19 (Amplified Bible) And you will be hated (despised) by everyone because [you bear] My name and for its sake. But not a hair of your head shall perish. By your <i>steadfastness</i> and <i>patient endurance</i> you shall win the true life of your souls.			Matthew 5:47-48 (Amplified Bible) [However] if you greet <i>only</i> your brethren, what more than others are you doing? Do not even the Gentiles (the heathen) do that? You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect.	
The Apostle's Amen	1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 (Amplified Bible) We are ever giving thanks to God for all of you, continually mentioning [you when engaged] in our prayers, Recalling unceasingly before our God and Father your <u>work energized by faith</u> and <u>service motivated by love</u> and <u>unwavering hope</u> in [the return of] our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). O, brethren beloved by God, we recognize and know that He has selected (chosen) you;							

Course Topics

Faith

Getting the Vision: Seeing the Unseen

Moral Goodness (Virtue)

Putting into Practice: Making it Real

Knowledge

Receiving the Truth: Gaining Confirmation

Self-Control

Mastering the Passion: Taking Authority

Steadfastness

Taking the Test: Staying Loyal

Godliness

Living for God: Purifying the Heart

Brotherly Affection

Loving Another: Becoming Sincere

Love

Giving your All: Paying the One Outstanding Debt

Spring 2005

SFC Adult Ed - Called to Holiness

Three Positions / Two Responses to God's Holiness and His Call

Positions

- Healthy
- Dangerous
- Questionable

Actions

- Give up
- Surrender

Exercises

- Appropriate, as well as appreciate content
- Not mandatory
- Variety
- Small groups, volunteer sharing