



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 1:2-4
- John 17:20-23
- Ephesians 3:19
- 1 John 4:8, 16

TO PARTNER WITH GOD

- Christianity in Three Verses
- Divine Intimacy
- Divine Power
- Divine Nature

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“**Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that **his divine power** has granted to us **all things** that pertain to **life and godliness**, through the **knowledge** of him who called us by his own **glory and virtue**, by which he has granted to us his **precious and exceedingly great promises**; that **through these** you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world by **lust.**” 2 Peter 1:2-4 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: To Partner with God

In an aw-inspiring grace-empowered moment of massive revelation, a feeling of serenity envelops you as you discover God’s perfect will. The magnitude and excellence of His plan for you is sobering; He wants you to be His partner and to know Him on the

most intimate level possible. In human terms, it can be compared only to the experience of consummating a marriage. It is in that moment the feeling of oneness is so real that you cannot discern where you end and your partner begins. When that occurs between you and God, you will know what it is like to have His power at your disposal, in addition to everything good you could ever imagine for your life, and more. Your life will become a never-ending joyous pursuit of sustaining that intimacy with God, while apprehending His every precious and exceedingly great promise. Having then experienced this intimacy, every lustful desire to please your carnal nature and every temptation to reattach your source of satisfaction to the pleasures of this world will have faded into oblivion. It is only then that you will truly understand what it means to be God's partner, as if His essence has become your essence.

We have a word for this in our language; it's called love. And all of a sudden this immortal idea finally makes perfect sense. You can come to know and believe the love God has for you by first recognizing that God is love. He who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in Him. God is love and God is perfect. The relationship between love and perfection is that love is the unifying force in the universe that glues together all of the component parts of perfection, what eventually becomes the mature finished product, —a Christlike human! In other words, love is the connective tissue

that binds together all the parts that unite man with God as one— what makes a disciple look like Y’shua!

And because God is love, without it you won’t ever know true intimacy with God. Furthermore, how can you claim to love God if you don’t love others—it’s just a lie. As such, you owe one another just one thing—love. God’s will can literally be summed up in that single idea because he who truly loves others simultaneously fulfills all of God’s law. This is possible because each of God’s commands is ultimately represented by that single idea—to love your neighbor as yourself, while never willingly bringing harm to another person. In other words, love in action completes, or binds together, every one of God’s legal requirements, and is indeed the only way you can recognize a true disciple of Christ.

And that is why love is the ultimate goal of a mature disciple; you must be diligent to practice your faith by adding to it these things: virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and finally you arrive at—love. And that is why to know that level of intimacy with God was Y’shua’s ultimate prayer for you before He went to the cross. He prayed that, “We would all be one; even as He and His Father are one, the Father in Him and He in the Father.” Y’shua also revealed how it is through the impartation of God’s glory that you can develop this intimate relationship, “The glory which You have given Me, I have given to

them, that they may be one, even as We are one, I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one.” Peter acknowledged that same path to intimacy in his final letter; “through the intimate knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and virtue.”

It is paramount, as such, that you believe these prayers and begin to think like Christ. If anything short of that is acceptable to you, break that stronghold and destroy every image in your mind that exalts itself above knowing God with this level of intimacy. Bring every thought into captivity that disagrees with this calling and bring it into submission to the truth of Christ. Then call others to do the same. That is what it means to be a disciple and to become a true ambassador of Christ, as if God actually speaks through you to the world! That is what it looks like to become a partner with God—to partake in His Divine Nature.

CHRISTIANITY IN THREE VERSES

1. The Purpose of Christianity

A. The Ultimate Message in the Bible

- (1) Introduction: Christianity in Three Verses
 - (a) A Divine Partnership: You CANNOT do God’s job and equally as important to recognize is that He WILL NOT do yours!

1. “**Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that **his divine power** has granted to us **all things** that pertain to **life and godliness**, through the **knowledge** of him who called us by his own **glory and virtue**, by which he has granted to us his **precious and exceedingly great promises**; that **through these** you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world by **lust.**” WEBUS

2. The Proper Perspective...

a) Develop an intimate **knowledge** of God which allows the **grace** of God and the **peace** of God to multiply exponentially in you.

1) “Being therefore **justified by** *[grace through]* **faith, we have peace with God** through our *[coming to know the]* Lord Jesus Christ; through whom we also have our **access by faith** *[as intimate knowledge increases]* **into this grace** *[multiplied]* in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of **the glory of God** *[the impartation of God’s glory fuels the deepening of your intimate knowledge of God].*” Romans 5:1-2

- b) Then, gain access to His **divine power** which provides **all things** you need for a **life of total submission** to God.
- 1) **Resurrection Power:** *“and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power toward us** who believe, according to that working of the strength of His might which He worked in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead...**”*
Ephesians 1:19-20
 - 2) **All things for life:** *“He who didn’t spare His own Son, but sacrifice Him, how would He not also with Him **freely give us all things?**”*
Romans 8:32
 - 3) **Godliness (total submission to God’s will):**
*“**Godliness with contentment is great gain.**” 1*
Timothy 6:6
- c) Again, access to such power comes only through intimate knowledge of God. When you know God intimately you know His love.
- 1) **You will feel filled with God’s glory as if He literally resides inside of you:** *“and **to know Christ’s love** which surpasses knowledge, that*

*you may be **filled with all the fullness of God.***"

Ephesians 3:19 WEBUS

- d) His glory then gives you total access to each of God's precious and exceedingly great promises.
 - 1) **The Hope of Glory:** *"to whom God was pleased to **make known** what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"* Colossians 1:27 WEBUS
- e) It is through these promises that you escape the corruption in the world that presents itself by the various faces of lust.
 - 1) **The world is passing away with its lusts:**
*"**Don't love the world or the things that are in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the Father's love isn't in him. For all that is in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—isn't the Father's, but is the world's. **The world is passing away with its lusts,** but he who does God's will remains forever." 1 John 2:15-17 WEBUS*
- f) When we've dismantled lust-motivated corruption, then we can partake in the **Divine Nature.**

- 1) **Partake:** a partner or companion, participate in, engage in, enter into, share in, play a part in, have the qualities or attributes of, be characterized by, manifest.
- 2) We partake in the Divine Nature; **partner with God; share in His qualities and attributes; manifest His characteristics.**
- 3) **Become the image of Christ:** *“But we all, with unveiled face seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, **are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit.**” 2 Corinthians 3:18 WEBUS*
- 4) **Learn to think like Christ:** *““For who has known the mind of the Lord that he should instruct him?” **But we have Christ’s mind.**” 1 Corinthians 2:16 WEBUS*
- 5) You CANNOT do God’s job and equally as important to recognize is that He WILL NOT do yours! God has made us His human initiative partners and we have a job to do!

(2)  **Warning!** 

(a) Bad Partnerships!

1. **“Don’t be unequally yoked with unbelievers,** for what fellowship do **righteousness and iniquity** have? Or what fellowship does **light have with darkness?** What agreement does **Christ have with Belial?** Or what portion does a **believer have with an unbeliever?** What agreement does a **temple of God have with idols?** For you are a temple of the living God. Even as God said, **“I will dwell in them and walk in them. I will be their God and they will be my people.”** Therefore **“Come out from among them, and be separate,**’ says the Lord. **‘Touch no unclean thing.** I will receive you. I will be to you a Father. You will be to me sons and daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty.”” 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 WEBUS
2. Do not become intimate with or partake with the wrong partner.
 - a) Do not share in his qualities and attributes, or manifest his characteristics.
 - 1) Righteousness should not partner with iniquity.
 - 2) Light should never partake in the things of darkness.
 - 3) Christ cannot be a companion of Belial.

- 4) The believer should never be intimate with the unbeliever.
- 5) The temple of God cannot share an altar with idols.

3. Divine Partnership

- a) To partake in God's Divine Nature
 - 1) You are a temple of the living God and He dwells in you!
 - a. *Christ in you, the hope of glory.* Col. 1:27
 - b. *Transformed into His image.* 2 Cor. 3:18
 - c. *You have the mind of Christ mind.* 1 Cor. 2:16
 - 2) Come out and separate yourself from every unholy alliance!
 - 3) Don't even get close to those relationships if you want true intimacy with God.

DIVINE INTIMACY

2. Human Initiative Partners

A. Intimate Knowledge of God

- (1) Introduction (See [Appreciating Knowledge](#))
 - (a) An aw-inspiring grace-empowered moment of massive revelation...

1. “**Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord,” 2 Peter 1:2

WEBUS

- a) Serenity comes by discovering God’s perfect will.
- b) The magnitude and excellence of His plan for you is sobering.
- c) He wants you to be His partner and to know Him on the most intimate level possible.
- d) In human terms, it can be compared only to the experience of consummating a marriage.
- e) It is in that moment the feeling of oneness is so real that you cannot discern where you end and your partner begins.
 - 1) *“I want to know Christ—yes, **to know** the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, **becoming like him** in his death, and so, somehow, **attaining to the resurrection** from the dead.”* Philippians 3:10-11 NIV
 - 2) *“to whom God was pleased to **make known** what are the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”* Colossians 1:27 WEBUS

- (2) Taste and See (*Imitate and Walk* like Christ)

(a) Description vs. Experience

1. “Oh **taste and see** that Yahweh is good. Blessed is the man who **takes refuge in him.**” Psalms 34:8 WEBUS
 - a) It can be described to you in graphic detail, over-and-over, from cradle to grave, but the most vivid descriptions can’t compare to even one intimate moment of experience with God.
 - b) If you wish to invite that experience into your life, you must be purposely attentive to your relationship with God, just as a married couple must do to experience true intimacy.
 - c) To describe intimacy pales in comparison to the experience of intimacy, just like describing the taste of chocolate is pathetic when compared to actually tasting chocolate!
2. How do you develop intimacy with someone? You spend time getting to know him! You begin to do what he does and act like he acts. Can you see the common themes?
 - a) Imitate...do what he does!
 - 1) “*I beg you therefore, be **imitators** of me.*”
1 Corinthians 4:16 WEBUS

- 2) “Be **imitators** of me, even as I also am of **Christ**.” 1 Corinthians 11:1 WEBUS
 - 3) “Be therefore **imitators** of **God**, as beloved children.” Ephesians 5:1 WEBUS
 - 4) “Now who will harm you if you become **imitators** of that which is **good**?” 1 Peter 3:13
WEBUS
 - 5) “that you won’t be sluggish, but **imitators** of **those who** through faith and perseverance **inherited the promises**.” Hebrews 6:12 WEBUS
 - 6) “You became **imitators** of **us** and of the Lord, having **received the word** in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,” 1 Thessalonians 1:6
WEBUS
- b) Walk...act like he acts!
- 1) “Brothers, be **imitators** together of me, and **note those who walk this way**, even as you have us for **an example**.” Philippians 3:17 WEBUS
 - 2) “he who says he remains in him ought himself also to **walk just like he walked**.” 1 John 2:6
WEBUS
 - 3) “Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed like this, **what kind of people ought**

you to be in holy living and godliness,” 2 Peter 3:11 WEBUS

4) *“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,”* Ephesians 4:1 WEBUS

DIVINE POWER

3. The Ultimate Promise

A. Resurrection Power!

(1) Introduction (See [Sending Out an S.O.S.](#))

(a) Intimacy opens access to Divine Power

1. “seeing that **his divine power** has granted to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and virtue,” 2 Peter 1:3 WEBUS

a) When you achieve deep intimacy between you and God, you will know what it is like to have His power at your disposal, plus everything good you could ever imagine for your life, and more.

b) **Resurrection Power:**

1) *“and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power toward us** who believe, according to that working of the strength of His might which He*

worked in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead...**" Ephesians 1:19-20

c) **All things for life:**

1) "He who didn't spare His own Son, but sacrifice Him, how would He not also with Him **freely give us all things?**" Romans 8:32

d) **Godliness (total submission to God's will):**

1) "**Godliness with contentment is great gain.**" 1 Timothy 6:6

(2)  **Warning!** 

(a) Don't abuse the power!

1. "Therefore **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away.** Behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

WEBUS

2. You are a new creation, now make a choice!

a) Use God's resurrection power to live for God, or resurrect your old nature to go back to your old life!

3. Don't do it!

a) "We who died to sin, **how could we live in it any longer?**" Romans 6:2 WEBUS

- b) *“For we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles, and having walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries.”* 1 Peter 4:3 WEBUS
4. How is going backwards even possible?
- a) *“For those who **live according to the flesh** set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according to the Spirit**, the things of the Spirit.”*
Romans 8:5 WEBUS
- b) *“For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, **having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.**”* 2 Peter 1:9 WEBUS
- c) *“Therefore God also **gave them up in the lusts of their hearts** to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves;”*
Romans 1:24 WEBUS
- d) *“**being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers,**”* Romans 1:29 WEBUS
- e) If you choose to allow the human spirit to animate your life, as opposed to the Holy Spirit, you will go

back to your old sins every time! You will live like you've never been cleansed from those sins at all!

f) See: [The 1 Thing](#)

DIVINE NATURE

4. Partake in the Divine Nature

A. What is the Divine Nature?

(1) Partnering with God!

(a) Your life should become a never-ending joyous pursuit of sustaining intimacy with God, while apprehending His every precious and exceedingly great promise.

1. “by which he has granted to us **his precious and exceedingly great promises**; that **through these** you may **become partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.**” 2 Peter 1:4 WEBUS

a) Having then experienced this intimacy, every lustful desire to please your carnal nature and every temptation to reattach your source of satisfaction to the pleasures of this world will have faded into oblivion.

1) “*Therefore let’s also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **lay aside every***

*weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's **run with perseverance the race that is set before us,***" Hebrews 12:1 WEBUS

b) It is only then that you will truly understand what it means to be God's partner, as if His essence has become your essence.

1) *"looking to **Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,** who for **the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* Hebrews 12:2 WEBUS

(2) Love: The Divine Nature

(a) We have a word for the Divine Nature in our language; it's called love—to know God, to be intimate with God, is to know love!

1. *"He who doesn't love doesn't **know** God, for **God is love.**"* 1 John 4:8 WEBUS

a) And all of a sudden this immortal idea finally makes perfect sense. You can come to know and believe the love God has for you by first recognizing that God is love.

1) *"We know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love, and he who***

remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him." 1 John 4:16 WEBUS

2) He who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in Him.

(b) God is perfect!

1. "Above all these things, walk in **love**, which **is the bond of perfection.**" Colossians 3:14 WEBUS

a) Unique to love: The relationship between love and perfection is that love is the unifying force in the universe that glues together all of the component parts of perfection, so you can become the mature finished product—a Christlike human!

1) Bond [sundesmos]: uniting principle; that which binds together; a band, bond, ligament; possession or holding together.

2) The term "sundesmos" is used to describe a bond or connection. It conveys the idea of a **unifying force** or principle that holds things together, spiritually or relationally.

3) The connective tissue that hold two bones together. In other words, love is the connective tissue that binds together all the parts that unite

man with God as one—what makes a disciple look like Y’shua!

- (c) Because God is love, without that glue you won’t ever know true intimacy with God—the oneness of being bound together.
1. “If a man says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for **he who doesn’t love his brother** whom he has seen, **how can he love God** whom he has not seen?” 1 John 4:20 WEBUS
 - a) You cannot claim to love God if you don’t love others—it’s just a lie.
- (d) As such, you owe one another just one thing—love.
1. “Owe no one anything, **except to love one another**; for he who loves his neighbor has **fulfilled the law**. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other commandments there are, are **all summed up in this** saying, namely, “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” **Love doesn’t harm a neighbor. Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.**” Romans 13:8-10 WEBUS

- a) God's will can literally be summed up in that single idea because he who truly loves others simultaneously fulfills all of God's law.
- b) This is possible because each of God's commands is ultimately represented by that single idea—to love your neighbor as yourself, while never willingly bringing harm to another person.
 - 1) *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love for one another.**"*
John 13:35 WEBUS
 - 2) In other words, love in action completes, or binds together, every one of God's legal requirements, and is indeed the only way you can recognize a true disciple of Christ.

(3) The Ultimate Goal!

- (a) You must be diligent to practice your faith...
 - 1. "Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part** all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge; and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, perseverance; and in perseverance, godliness; and in godliness, brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, **love.**" 2 Peter 1:5-7 WEBUS

- a) Love is the ultimate goal of a mature disciple!
- b) By adding to it these things to your faith: virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and finally you arrive at—love.
- c) Love: to experience the Divine Nature by knowing God on the most intimate level possible—becoming one with God.

(4) The Ultimate Prayer!

- (a) To know that level of intimacy with God was Y'shua's ultimate prayer for you before He went to the cross.

1. ““Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me. **The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one, even as we are one,** I in them, and you in me, **that they may be perfected into one,** that the world may know that you sent me and loved them, even as you loved me.” John 17:20-23 WEBUS**

- a) Y'shua's final prayer on the night He was betrayed was that we would all be one as He and His Father are one.

- b) To know God intimately is to experience Him inside of us like Y'shua did! "The Father in Him and He in the Father."
- c) Y'shua also revealed how it is through the impartation of God's glory that you can develop this intimate relationship, *"The glory which You have given Me, I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one, I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one."*
- d) When the world witnesses our love and intimacy with God, they will know Y'shua's true identity!
 - 1) *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love for one another.**"*
John 13:35 WEBUS

(b) Peter acknowledged the same path to intimacy in his final letter...

- 1. "seeing that his divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the [intimate] knowledge of him [to know His love] who called us **by his own glory** and virtue," 2 Peter 1:3
WEBUS

(5) It is paramount, as such, that you believe these prayers and begin to think like Christ.

- (a) If anything short of this level of intimacy with God is acceptable to you, it's time to break that stronghold!
1. "For though we walk in the flesh, we don't wage war according to the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the **throwing down of strongholds, {5} throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge [intimacy] of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, {6}** and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience **when your obedience is made full.**" 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 WEBUS
 - a) Destroy every image in your mind that exalts itself above knowing God with this level of intimacy.
 - b) Bring every thought into captivity that disagrees with this calling and bring it into submission to the truth of Christ.
 - c) Then call others to do the same.
 - 1) *““For who has known the mind of the Lord that he should instruct him?” **But we have Christ's mind.**”* 1 Corinthians 2:16 WEBUS

(b) This is what it means to be a disciple and to become a true ambassador of Christ, as if God actually speaks through you to the world!

1. “We are therefore **ambassadors on behalf of Christ**, as though God were **entreating by us**: we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20 WEBUS

a) That is what it looks like to become a partner with God—to partake in His Divine Nature.

b) You represent God by speaking for Him and loving others as His ambassadors.

(c) Now duplicate yourself!

1. “The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**” 2 Timothy 2:2 WEBUS

a) “***Walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling fragrance.***” Ephesians 5:2 WEBUS

1) Walk in love which is the Divine Nature

2) And then teach other to do so, who can then teach others to do so. And on, and on, and on!

3) That is the great commission!

(d) Now, go and make disciples

1. “Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to me** in heaven and on earth. **Go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20 WEBUS

a) Y’shua has granted you His authority to...

1) “*But that you may know that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**—*” (then he said to the paralytic), “*Get up, and take up your mat, and go to your house.*”” Matthew 9:6 WEBUS

2) “*Jesus therefore said to them again, “Peace be to you. **As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.**”* When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “*Receive the Holy Spirit! **If you forgive anyone’s sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone’s sins,***

they have been retained.”” John 20:21-23

WEBUS

- 3) “*This is the boldness which we have toward him, that **if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us.** And if we know that he listens to us, **whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.** **If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life** for those who sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I don’t say that he should make a request concerning this.” 1 John*

5:14-16 WEBUS

- 4) See: [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)

b) Baptize...the Gospel of Salvation

- 1) “*For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and him crucified.***” 1

Corinthians 2:2 WEBUS

c) Teach...the Gospel of the Kingdom

- 1) “*But we speak **God’s wisdom in a mystery,** the wisdom that has been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds **for our glory,***” 1

Corinthians 2:7 WEBUS

B. What is the Divine Nature?

(1) To love like God and to partner with God!

(a) Christianity in Three Verses

1. “**Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that **his divine power** has granted to us **all things** that pertain to **life and godliness**, through the **knowledge** of him who called us by his own **glory and virtue**, by which he has granted to us his **precious and exceedingly great promises**; that **through these** you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world by **lust.**” 2 Peter 1:2-4 WEBUS

a) A Divine Partnership: become partakers of the divine nature because you CANNOT do God’s job and equally as important to recognize is that He WILL NOT do yours! God has made us His human initiative partners and we have a job to do!

b) “*The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.***” 2 Timothy 2:2 WEBUS

(2) Love others and teach others to love...

(a) The greatest of these is love...

1. "But now **faith, hope, and love remain**—these three. **The greatest of these is love.**" 1 Corinthians 13:13

WEBUS

a) Why is love the greatest?

(b) Love is the greatest because God is Love (1 John 4:8)

1. "**Love is patient and is kind. Love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails...**" 1 Corinthians

13:4-8 WEBUS

(c) **Exercise:** add each of the 16 attributes of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to the following seed phrases...

1. "Love is..."
2. "God is..."
3. "I am..."

(d) 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Paraphrase)

1. "*Love is the standard by which every thought and action is measured. It is manifested altogether and simultaneously as patience, kindness, admiration,*

trust, modesty, humility, and meekness. It is gracious, polite, altruistic, peaceful, soothing, virtuous, joyful, righteous, and truthful. It displays fierce loyalty; believes, hopes, and endures all things; and always succeeds and thrives, no matter what. It will never fail you!”

(e) Love for one another... *“everyone will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love for one another.**”*”

John 13:35

1. **“Faith, hope, and love remain**—these three. **The greatest of these is love.**” 1 Corinthians 13:13

WEBUS

2. **“Greater love** has no one than this, that someone **lay down his life** for his friends.” John 15:13 WEBUS

a) The greatest thing is love and love looks like laying down your life!

b) Now: *“The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**”* 2 Timothy 2:2 WEBUS

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Why is it accurate to say that 2 Peter 1:2-4 sums up all of Christianity in three verses?**
 - A. Why are these statement true?
 - 1) You CANNOT do God's job and equally as important to recognize is that He WILL NOT do yours!
 - 2) God has made us His human initiative partners and we have a job to do!
- 2. What does it mean to partake in the Divine Nature or partner with God?**
 - A. What is the warning against bad partnerships in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18?
 - B. Instead, according to the same passage, what should you consider and do?
- 3. Psalms 34:8 says "Oh taste and see that Yahweh is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him."**
 - A. How does the Psalm support this idea: To describe intimacy with God pales in comparison to the experience, just like describing what something tastes like as opposed to tasting it!
 - B. On pages 12–13 of the sermon notes there is a common theme on how to practice intimacy with God. Describe it!
- 4. How does 2 Peter 1:4 support the following statements? Please elaborate in detail in your own words.**

- A. Your life should become a never-ending joyous pursuit of sustaining intimacy with God, while apprehending His every precious and exceedingly great promise.
- B. To experience this intimacy, every lustful desire to please your carnal nature and every temptation to reattach your source of satisfaction to the pleasures of this world must have faded into oblivion.

5. Exercise: write each of the 16 attributes of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, adding them to these seed phrases...

- A. "Love is..."
- B. "God is..."
- C. "I am..."

6. Craft a comprehensive essay describing how love is the Divine Nature. Your essay should be at least 2000 words.

- A. Use the sermon notes pages 17-30 to help. Be sure to touch on the following topics:
 - 1) God's perfection
 - 2) Loving others
 - 3) The ultimate goal
 - 4) The ultimate prayer
 - 5) Breaking strongholds
 - 6) Duplicating yourself to make disciples
 - 7) Why the greatest of all things is love