

Add to Your Patience Godliness

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Godliness means God-likeness. In other words God revealed in us through our words and our actions.
- B. There is no greater characteristic that a Christian can have than godliness.
- C. If you eliminate godliness, Christianity will cease.
- D. Labor and time spent on this earth without godliness is wasted.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF GODLINESS.

- A. The apostle Peter gives a very good argument for being godly. (2 Peter 3:10-11)
- B. The apostle Paul told Timothy to: “. . . *exercise yourself toward godliness.*” (1 Timothy 4:7)
 - 1. Paul also told Titus to deny ungodliness and live godly. (Titus 2:11-13)
 - 2. Paul also told Timothy the same thing. (1 Timothy 6:10-11)
 - 3. We should serve God with reverence and godly fear. (Hebrews 12:28)

II. SEVEN AREAS OF GODLINESS.

- A. Let's look at seven areas that we can be like God.
 - 1. We can be like God in the area of love.
 - a. God loved us while we were sinners. (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5)
 - b. Therefore, if God loved us while we were sinners, we must love him in return. (Matthew 22:37; 1 John 4:19)
 - c. Since God loved the brethren, we must all love the brethren if we are going to be like God in love. (1 John 3:10; 4:7, 11)
 - d. We must also love the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:43-47)
 - 2. We can be like God if we show impartiality.
 - a. God is no respecter of persons. (2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34-35)

- b. James 2:1-4, 9 teaches us that if we are to be like God, we must show no partiality.
3. We can be like God if we are longsuffering.
 - a. God has always been longsuffering with man. (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:9, 15)
 - b. Men have taken advantage of God's longsuffering. (Ecclesiastes 8:11; Romans 2:4-5)
 - c. If we are to be like God, we must be longsuffering. (Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 1:9-11)
4. We can be like God in mercy.
 - a. Mercy is an attribute of God. (Daniel 9:9; Ephesians 2:4; Titus 3:4-5)
 - b. We should be like God in showing mercy. (Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:7; James 2:13)
 - c. A good example of what James is talking about can be found in the parable of the unmerciful servant. (Matthew 18:23-34)
5. Another area that we can be God like is justice.
 - a. Justice is the foundation of God's throne. (Psalms 89:14; Job 37:23)
 - b. Just as God is Just, we should be just in our dealings with people. (Titus 1:8; Philippians 4:8)
6. If we are to be God like, we must be like Him in Holiness.
 - a. God is holy in all His works. (Psalms 145:17)
 - b. According to the scriptures, we must imitate Him in Holiness. (Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Leviticus 11:44; 1 Samuel 2:2)
 - c. We must be holy in words. (Ephesians 4:29)
 - d. We should be holy in deeds. (1 Peter 1:15; 2 Peter 3:11)
7. The seventh and final area that we can be God like is by standing for the

truth.

- a. The truth of our Lord endures forever. (Psalms 117:2)
 - b. The truth of our Lord brings us back to 2 Peter 1:3 where Peter told us: *“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,”* (2 Peter 1:3)
 - c. We must teach the truth which is according to godliness. (1 Timothy 6:3-4a; Titus 1:1, 9)
- B. Godliness is often misconstrued.
1. Some suppose that gain is godliness. (1 Timothy 6:5; Titus 1:10-11)
 2. Some possess an outward form of godliness. (2 Timothy 3:3-5; Matthew 23:14, 27, 28)
- C. What will be the results of Godliness?
1. Godliness will insure persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)
 2. Godliness will work deliverance from temptation. (2 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13)
 3. Godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6; Romans 8:31; Matthew 6:33)
 4. Godliness prepares us for the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:8)

CONCLUSION.

- A. We should pray for conditions favorable to godliness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- B. The Godly is set apart for the Lord. (Psalms 4:3)
- C. Good works become professors of godliness. (Ephesians 2:10; James 2:18; Matthew 7:16)
- D. If we are like God in Godliness, we will be like him hereafter. (Psalms 17:15; 1 John 3:2)