

Principles for Powerful Living

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC

Sunday, Jan. 19th

Positive change requires effort and energy to overcome the entropy of selfishness and sin. Such change involves weaving into the fabric of our soul Biblical principles by which we purpose to operate. These principles enable us to rise above the mediocrity of life and as such are timeless and inherently practical. They apply universally and are what our founding fathers called “self-evident truths.”

The Principle of Passion! Col. 3:16-25

1. THE SCOPE OF OUR PASSION. *“Whatsoever...”* Hostis (any) pas (all)

We Tend To Divide The Secular And Sacred. God makes no such distinction! Ps 148:7-13

Ps 148:7-8 *“Praise the LORD from the earth, ... Fire, and hail; snow, and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling his word:”*

Ps 150:6 *“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD!”*

(Hālal: root word means to “make clear”, shine.) See Rev. 4:11

“Whatsoever” Involves:

A. Every *Relationship*.

1) Marriage. Vs 18,19;

a) 18 *“wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands...”*

(hypotasso: subordinate {hypo: under and Tasso: to arrange, assign, ordain})

Eph. 5:22 clarifies: “as unto the Lord”

b) 19 *“husbands, love your wives...”* The word for Love here is agapao. From agan: To love much”

(1) It’s a verb (*requiring action*)

(2) It’s in an imperative mood (*command*)

(3) It’s in the perfect tense (*action completed at a specific past point with results continuing into the future.*)

Eph. 5:25 adds: *“even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it”*

agapao is the verb form of the noun agape, the fruit of which is described in 1 Cor 13 as
“benevolent affection” (charity!)

2) Family Vs 20,21;

a) 20 *“Children, obey (hypokouo: hearken under) your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”* (“which is the first commandment with promise...” Eph 6:1-3)

b) 21 *“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”*

(Eph 6:4 *“but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*)

3) Job: Vs 22,23 *“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: ... heartily, as to the Lord...”* (see also Eph. 6:5-9)

Eph 6:5-9 adds: *“as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;*

With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:...”

B. Every *Word* *“Whatsoever ye do in word...”* (logos: something said {including the thought})

1) Our words are related to our thoughts. (Heart) Mt 12:34 (See also 2 Cor. 10:5; Heb. 4:12)

2) Ps 19:14 *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD...”*

C. Every *Choice* (activity) *“...or deed”* (ergon: work, effort, action)

Pr 20:11 *“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.”*

2. THE STRENGTH OF OUR PASSION. *“Heartily...”*

A. Our Passion Comes From Our Soul.

- 1) Heartily is a compound word from: ek (the source or origin)
and psyche: the soul (mind, will, and emotions.)

“Heartily” means that “whatever we do” comes from the depths of our soul and being.

Illustrate: Scottish Missionary and runner Eric Liddell ran in the 1924 Olympics. His sister feared that his running would interfere with his missionary work. He explained “Jenny, I want you to know that I have committed myself to be a missionary to China. But I’ve got a lot of running to do first. I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and I feel His pleasure when I run.”

When he ran, his knees were high, head tilted back and arms flailing.

After competing he returned to China to serve as a missionary. He wrote: “Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God’s plans, But God is not helpless among the ruin. God’s love is still working! He comes in and takes the calamity, and uses it victoriously, working out His wonderful plan of love. “
After serving for 20 years as a missionary to China, he died in a China Internment camp at the age of 43.

B. Such Passion Pleases God. (Heb. 11:6; Rev. 4:11) *“I feel His pleasure when I run!”*

- 1) What has God made you “fast at?” (Teaching, parenting, comforting, managing, organizing, etc.?)
- 2) What we do “heartily” pleases God!!!! Eccl 9:10 *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might... ”* (kō’ah: vigor, force, capacity)

CONCLUSION: The Bible often uses the analogy of a race to describe our Christian experience.

In 1 Cor. 9:24-27 Paul writes: ²⁴*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.* ²⁵*And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.* ²⁶*I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”* (adokimos: unapproved, disqualified, reprobate)

Eph. 4:7,8 *“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”*

1 Peter 4:10 *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*

What has God given you? Why has He given it to you? What are you doing with it?

The European Cuckoo lays her eggs in the nests of smaller birds such as hedge sparrows.



When the young cuckoo hatches, its first act is to dispose of any other eggs: pushing them from the nest, leaving itself as the sole occupant.

It then begins to dominate the “foster mom’s” attention.

Are there any “Cuckoo’s” in your life competing for your attention?

Heb 12:1,2 *“Let us lay aside every weight (cuckoos) and the sin which would so easily beset us, And run with patience the race set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”*

3 *“For consider Him...”* **Analogiz’omai: think or proportion appropriately**

What “proportion” of your heart / life does Jsus have?