

Reflection
 "I've always been a person who likes to reflect on things. I think it's important to take time to think about what you've done and how you've done it. It helps you to learn from your mistakes and to improve yourself. I think that's why people who like to reflect are usually successful in what they do." - [Name]



How should we respond to his reflection?
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"You only person what you have substance"

2 Major Summaries:

- 1. A Christ-Centered **Identity** (Substance)
- 2. A Christ-Centered **Mentality** (Pursuing Joy)

Identity
 "Identity is the sense of who you are, where you come from, and what you believe. It's the foundation of your life. Without a strong sense of identity, you can feel lost and confused. It's important to know who you are and what you stand for. This helps you to make decisions and live your life with purpose." - [Name]



3 Precepts of pursuing a Christ-centered spiritual identity: (Substance)

- 1. **Believe** worldliness is what is choking and blinding us, not Jesus.
- 2. **Believe** God has given us everything we need to pursue godliness.
- 3. **Pursue** the 4 marks of godliness through 4 practices of discipleship.

1. Worldliness is what is choking and blinding us, not Jesus.

Worldliness
 "Worldliness is the love of the world and its pleasures. It's the opposite of godliness. When we love the world, we are blinded by its attractions and unable to see the truth. Jesus said, 'The world is the enemy of the soul.' We need to be careful not to let the world distract us from our faith." - [Name]

God has given us everything we need for godliness.
 "God has given us everything we need for godliness. We don't need to worry about anything because God is our Father and He will provide for us. We just need to trust Him and follow His commands. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us live righteously." - [Name]

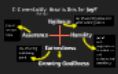


2 Peter 1:11
 My divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...

2. The spiritual strength and power depends on your love (1 John 4:19)

2. A Christ-Centered Mentality (Pursuing Joy)

1. **Worldliness** is the love of the world and its pleasures.
 2. **Godliness** is the love of God and His commands.
 3. **Worldliness** is the enemy of the soul.
 4. **Godliness** is the way to eternal life.



- My Prayers:**
- 1. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who dwells in me.
 - 2. Help me to love you with all my heart, mind, and strength.
 - 3. Help me to love my neighbor as myself.
 - 4. Help me to keep your commandments.
 - 5. Help me to believe in you with all my heart, mind, and strength.
 - 6. Thank you for your grace and mercy.



Reflection



Reflection

Good Signs...

- More people - more giving - even genders - growing younger - New families and fertility - invested mature generations - high unity on major decision - high and diverse building use - increased multi-ethnicity - increased presence of immigrants - numerous zip codes represented (14 over 10) - 58% have invited people - dozens of baptisms - high volunteer reliability - highly creative original art - substantial attention to God's word - reputation for believing the Gospel - Multi-ethnic church partnerships - strong international missions investments - model refugee ministry - loving frail elderly - benevolence min to poor - hard conversations and decision - embracing the ordinary and work







How should we respond to this reflection?



A concentrated review
of two years together

"You only possess what you have mastered."
(especially under stress)

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies **as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to **test and approve** what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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(Substance)

2. A Christ-Centered **Mentality**
(Pursuing Joy)

Romans 12:1-2

Identity

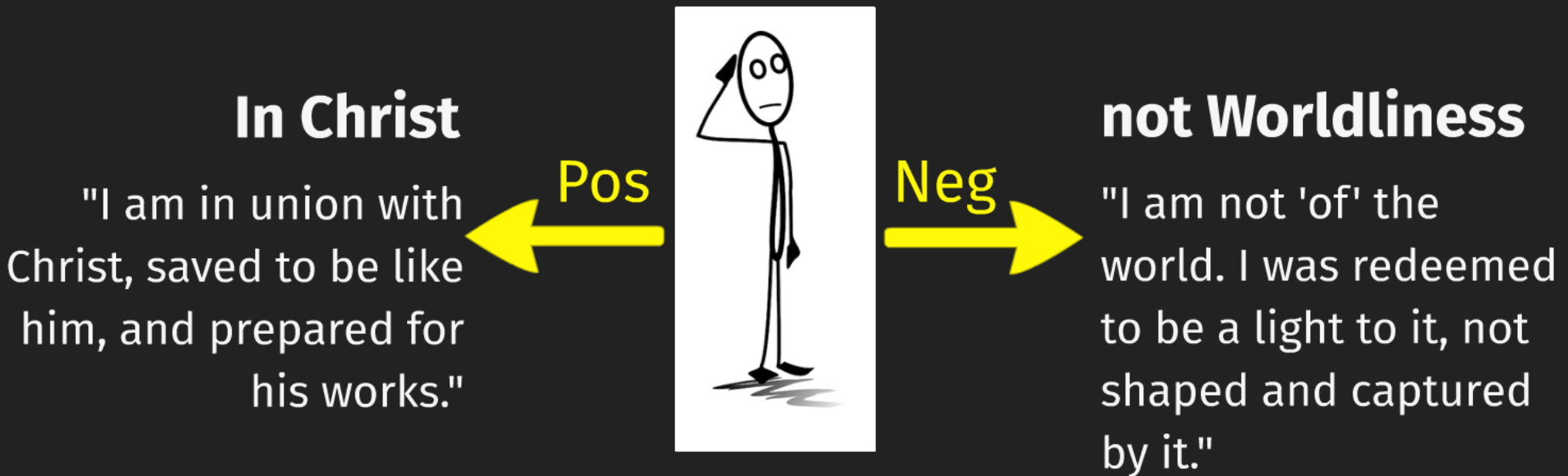


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Mentality



1. A Christ-Centered Identity



Pursuit of Substance (2017)

More on "prepared for his works" next week

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1. **Believe** worldliness is what is choking and blinding us, not Jesus.
2. **Believe** God has given us everything we need to pursue godliness.
3. **Pursue** the 4 marks of godliness through 4 practices of discipleship.

1. Worldliness is what is choking and blinding us, (anxiety and self-deception) not Jesus.

Matthew 6:19-24

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where **moth and rust destroy**, and where **thieves break in and steal**. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. **If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!** **No one can serve two masters.** Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.

2. God has given us everything we need for godliness.

Mark 4:19

"...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful."

1. Worldliness is what is choking and blinding us, (anxiety and self-deception) not Jesus.

Matthew 6:19-24

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Matthew 6:31-33

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.


(vs. having two masters)

and Mammon.

2. God has given us everything we need for godliness.

2 Peter 1:3-8

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 Mark 4:19
"unfruitful"

God has given us everything in Christ Jesus

***"For this very reason,
make every effort..."***

"Gracious Striving"
+
"Failing in the right
direction."

Worldly corruption must be escaped

3. **Pursue** the 4 Marks through the 4 Practices

4 Marks:

1. Self-Sacrificial Love
2. The Mind of Christ
3. Virtuous Freedom
4. In Step with the Spirit



4 Practices:

1. Embrace Ordinary
2. Escape Diversion
3. Embrace Discipline
4. Formational Community

To learn or review see:
Substance



2. A Christ-Centered **Mentality** *(Pursuing Joy)*

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Be joyful always;

Romans 12:12a

Be joyful in hope

Nehemiah 8:10b

...the joy of the LORD
is your strength.

God's mentality: **faith** and **focus**

(for us)

John 10:11

Vigilance

Isaiah 66:2

(**focus** against evil)

1 John 3:18ff

Assurance

(**Faith**: security and love)

Humility

Romans 3:27

(**Faith**: not complacency and entitlement)

Romans 8:35ff

Earnestness

Jeremiah 9:23

(**focus** on good)

Growing Godliness

1 John 3:18-20

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with works and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

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(for us)

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Growing Godliness

Isaiah 66:1-2

This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD.

"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word."

God's mentality: **faith** and **focus**

(for us)

John 10:11

Vigilance

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(**focus** against evil)

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Earnestness

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(**focus** on good)

Growing Godliness

Mentality of faith and focus

"but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"

Identity

Faith

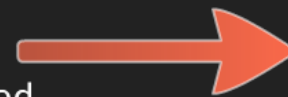
Focus

Redeemed by
and in Christ



Assurance

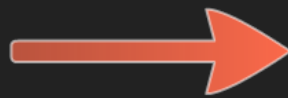
loved by God
Kept in Christ



Earnestness

Do the good

Escape from
worldliness



Humility

Prone to wander
and love idols



Vigilance

Against evil

Faith becomes Godliness

Fail in the right direction

C-C mentality: How is this for *Joy*?

(for us)



My Proposals:

1. Vision clarifying is leveraging godliness
2. More "pursuit of Joy" mentality
3. More pursuit of Godliness (and killing worldliness)—4 marks, 4 pursuits
4. More 'personal devotions'
5. Big Prayer
6. Seeking Martyrdom