

2 PETER 1:3 - 11 // *memory verse*

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.

2 PETER 1:3 - 11 // *memory verse*

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.

2 PETER 1:3 - 11 // *memory verse*

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. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

2 PETER 1:3 - 11 // *memory verse*

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

THE NEXT GOOD THING

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6 TAKING SHELTER IN FELLOWSHIP

Taking shade and shelter under the pillar and foundation of the truth (1 Tim 3:15)

5 HEALING THE WEAKENING WOUNDS

Facing what festers, weakens and diminishes God's restoration in Christ (Isa 61:3, Rom 7-8)

3 TENDING THE FIRE OF DEVOTION

Keep up your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord (Rom 12:11)

1 KNOWING THE PRIORITY OF THE HEART

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength (Deut 6:5-6, Prov 4:23)

4 READY TO DO THE NEXT GOOD THING

Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord...your labor is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58)

2 STANDING ON THE GOSPEL FOUNDATION

He has given us everything we need through our knowledge of him who called us (2 Peter 1:3-4)

3 FELLOWSHIP WEAKENERS

1. Consumables – Transactional
2. Digital – Impersonal
3. Conglomerate/Gov –
ideology unto tribalism

Idolatrous Foundation:

modern society moves us towards more transactional relationships (consumerism) and more distant non-responsible, and remote and impersonal authority and provision (government). This leaves us free from laborious duties that don't leave us maximally free to pursue our happiness however we wish. We are more free, not in that we are more able to do the good, but that we have fewer relational obligations that come from more direct connection and reliance. But in freeing us from such bonds, this modern foundation has made intimacy and emotional enjoyment much harder, while also diminishing most of the healing and helping effects of covenantal, stable, trusting, and intimate relationships. It has hollowed out both life's best enjoyments, and its most effective cures.

**THE CHURCH IS GOD'S SHELTERING,
HEALING AND DEVELOPING
FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL.**

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1. WE ARE THAT FELLOWSHIP

So embrace it with all your heart

St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage

“No one can have God as his father, who has not the church as his mother.”



DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CHURCH USE

WORDS OF EXTREME UNION

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1 TIMOTHY 3:14 - 16

...I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great...

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13, 27

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink... Now you are the body of Christ and each of you is part of it.

ROMANS 12:4 - 5

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

EPHESIANS 1:22 - 23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for **the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**

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2. WE NEED THAT FELLOWSHIP

So shape your life to love it.

GOD PROVIDES MUCH THROUGH HIS CHURCH

4 human needs:

- 1. Shelter and help**
- 2. healing and growth**
- 3. Purpose and employment**
- 4. Enjoyment and delight**

GOD USES HIS GIFT OF SHELTER

Vibrancy and fire

Persuasion and witness

Growth through practice

Protection/vigilance

Healing

Help

Enjoyment and delight

etc...

**'Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be.'**

- Jesus

(Matt 6:21, Lk 12:34)

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SO WHAT?

What do these truths imply for action?

STARTING APPLICATION REFLECTIONS...

- 1. Embracing God's united Gospel and Church**
- 2. Shape your life to the Fellowship**
- 3. Fight for the church's health**
 - a. Seek and support vigilant reformation**
- 4. Invest your heart and treasure into her**
- 5. Interact with the fellowship devotionally**
- 6. Love her**

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