

Growth Track Session 1 (Fundamentals of Faith)

Our hope for you. Ps. 90:17, And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Col. 2:6-7, So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Week 1 - Faith

Week 2 - Culture

Week 3 - Calling

Week 4 - Partnership

Intro: There are 2 types of faith. Faith "by which" you believe & faith "in which" you believe. Faith "by which" you believe moves mountains, heals the sick, causes an answer to prayer. This is what overcomes the world...faith.

I. Hebrews 11:2. By it the elders obtained a good report.

A. Vs. 4, By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, Abel WORSHIPPED.

1. Your 1st job in the kingdom is not usher, choir member, or greeter; but worshipper. And you need to learn to worship regardless of situation, circumstance, adversity, or opposition. Anyone can worship when surrounded by saints, fast music & good singing; but you have to learn how to worship in the Dr. office, @ graveside of deceased loved one. "The Lord give or takes away, but blessed be the name of the Lord."

2. You have to discover how to worship through frustration, loneliness, tears, pain, heartache & heartbreak, because when you worship it allows you to enter into the Kings presence for we enter the gates w/thanksgiving & enter the courts w/praise.

B. Vs. 5, By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. Enoch WALKED. After worship you learn to walk.

1. It takes time to walk w/God. It only takes a second to become a child of God confess w/mouth the Lord Jesus & believe in heart...saved), but a life time to become a man or woman of God. It doesn't happen overnight. You don't pray 1 prayer, hear 1 sermon, read 1 book, or attend 1 class and suddenly reach maturity. We can't just lay hands on you and turn you into "super saint". There is a transformation that takes place. "Transformed by the renewing..." "Transformation - metamorpho - metamorphosis" the caterpillar turns into the butterfly.

2. He walks you through seasons, stages, & steps, "the steps of a good man..." "You go from faith to faith & glory to glory, the path of the righteous growing brighter & brighter." "Enoch walked w/God and was not" as he walked w/God he was being changed. The more you walk w/God the more you ought to change. Gradually Enoch was decreasing and God was increasing and finally "he was not and all he left was the testimony that he pleased God."

C. Vs. 7, By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Noah WORKED.

1. He built something for God. There has to be a progression from worshipping to walking & walking to working. Most do a good job @ worshipping..., some are walking, only some are working. God wants us to graduate from believers to builders.

a. Notice how quiet it is. That's because we are by nature a selfish people, but God wants us to (turn our hand over) stop placing so much attention on getting & start placing more emphasis on giving. Stop thinking about us & start thinking about others. Stop being served only & offering service to others.

b. Jesus had eaten Passover (last supper) Bread & Wine... **after supper was ended Jesus got up from the table.** You shouldn't just come to this church to get fed good singing and preaching & then sit back & grow fat & sassy. You come to get strength so **you can go to the highways & hedges... into all the world... Freely received, freely give.**

2. **Gen 12, God blesses you to be a blessing.** Some of you are sitting on your blessing, ministry, call, skill, & talent. **Heb. 5:12, You've been taught & ought to be teachers by now still on the milk when we should be on meat.** No more excuses, no more complaints. Serve the Lord, serve His church, & serve His people. **He prepared to the saving of his house.**

II. Faith "in which" you believe. What you believe in, doctrine. **Acts 2:42, they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.** What you believe is important, you will live by what you believe. If you believe there is no God or heaven or hell you will live like it. **Men will not endure sound doctrine & shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears...fables.** We're warned in **Rom. 16:17, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. Jude, contend for the faith... If the foundations be destroyed...**

A. #1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

1. The holy Scriptures consist of **66** canonized books that were each inspired by the Holy Spirit, coming through the human authors who were given divine revelation and inspiration. The word inspiration is used in **2 Timothy 3:16** means to be **breathed** by God. **1 Corinthians 2:9-11** says **the Holy Spirit reveals the deep things of God.** **2 Pet. 1:21, men were brought along by the Holy Ghost to write the infallible word of God.**

2. **40** human authors written over a span of more than **1500** years & yet it is infallible means without error or contradiction, because it was 1 author, the HG. **Ps. 19:7, The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.** You read the whole Bible you see that these are affirmations and confirmations and not contradictions, **line upon line and precept upon precept.**

3. The liberal religionist assert that the Bible only contains the word of God. This doesn't contain the word of God, it is the word of God. **2 Pet. 1:16, we have not followed cunningly devised fables.** **3800** times in the Old Testament we see the clause, "the Lord said." It's all equally inspired and should all be accepted.

B. #2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

1. **Trinitarian.** The first occurrence or mention of God is **Gen. 1:1, in the beginning God** (Elohim). Adding "im" to the end of Hebrew makes it plural, add it to Cherub & get cherubim, add to seraph get seraphim, add to Baal get Baalim. The singular word for God is Eloah by adding "im" we get Elohim (plural). **Gen. 1:26, Let US make man...**

2. Deut 6:4, Here O Israel...1 God. Unitarians use this, but it doesn't mean one as in singular, though we know He's God all by Himself. Echad is used meaning 1 in nature different purposes or offices. In Gen, 1:5, evening & morning was first day or day one. #2 Gen. 2:24, Therefore shall a man leave his father & mother & shall cleave unto his wife & they shall be one flesh. 2 units making 1. #3, Jud. 20:11, So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. Vs 17 tells us the # was 400,000. 400,000 are as 1.

3. 1 Jn. 5:17, there are three that bear record in heaven the father, the word, and the Holy Ghost; these three are one. I am a father, a son, and brother.

C. #3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.

1. Jesus means Savior and Christ means anointed one. He is the only begotten son of the Father, He alone is begotten of God. He has the Father's nature, He and the Father are one, **if you seen him you've seen the father. He only says and does what he has seen and heard from his father. In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the Word was God.**

2. Mary was a virgin and not just a young lady, she admitted as much herself, **how can this happen seeing I know not a man?** The Catholics teach the immaculate conception that says Mary was free from sin. She is not free from sin though she was a virgin.

3. This is important because Adams seem to course through Jesus veins, it is a pure blood, sinless lamb, blood transferred from Father. A Roman soldier said **truly this was the SOG. Matt. 1** covers 42 generations & 39 times, **so & so begat so & so... vs 16, and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called the Christ.** Why didn't it say, "Joseph begat Jesus?" He was conceived of the HG & born to a virgin. A Heavenly child w/a heavenly Father, born to an earthly mother. **She brought forth HER 1st born Son (Matt. 1:25). The angel told Joseph in a dream to 'take the young child & His mother to Egypt (2:13). Then vs 20, take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. Not 'your son'.**

D. #4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.

1. Not the act but state of sin. In Adams fall we sinned all. **Romans 5:12 wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for all have sinned. Eph. 2:2-3, We are by nature the children of wrath and the children of disobedience.**

2. This brought eternal separation and damnation so repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. An about face, change of direction. You renounce and reject. Commission and omission. **Acts 17:30 God commands all men everywhere to repent.** This is more than regret, apology, and contrition, this is brokenness and a change. Confession is instant but repentance is long-term. **Bring forth the evidence meet for repentance.**

3. **You must be born again** and become a **new creature** because **a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit.**

E. #5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

1. Justification is a change of your position. You were, but are no longer. *Just-if-I'd* never sinned. The account is made clean & charges dropped. A just God demanded payment, Jesus paid that for us.

a. "Imputed righteousness". When something is imputed it's when you take something that belongs to 1 person & put it on account of another person. It's taking my debt & putting it on your account. Paul spoke of that in [Philemon vs 18 when he said, put the debt of Onesimus on my account](#). That's what Jesus did for us. He took all the sin from my ledger & put it in His. [Is. 53, The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was smitten of God. Col. 2:14, blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. 1 Pet. 2:24, Who His own self bear our sins in His own body on the tree that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness. 2 Cor. 5:21, For he hath made Him to be sin for us...righteousness of God in Him](#). It was a debt I could not pay & 1 He did not owe. Now the old account is settled.

b. "Imparted righteousness". Imputed is done FOR me, imparted is done TO me. It makes me righteous. It's something that happens in me. [I am the righteousness of God in Christ](#). Apolutrosis – restored to full sonship. [Gal. 4:7, "No more servants but sons & if a son then an heir..."](#)

2. Regenerated. re-gear-erated. Implanted seed of life. Born again not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible.

3. New birth. You are not an old mattress that gets turned over or an old barn with a fresh coat of paint. This comes through the blood, [w/out shedding of blood... We overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb...](#)

F. #6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.

1. Set apart, removed from Satans dominion and domination. Reserved for Gods exclusive usage. [My body is the temple of the HG](#). My eyes are His, my hands are his, my voice is His. [I am not my own I am bought w/a price & glorify God w/my body. Present my body as a living sacrifice, holy & acceptable unto God which is my reasonable service \(Rom. 12:1\)](#)

2. More than buttons & zippers. He does a work in my heart that is manifest in speech, conduct, character, business ventures. [We are in the world, but not of the world. Come out from...](#) He sanctifies, but we sanctify ourselves. [Jn. 17:19, I sanctify myself](#). Taking up cross & denying self. [1st John 3:3 that has this hope purifies himself even as He is pure.](#)

3. The agents are:

a. The blood - [1 Jn. 1:7, but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin - keeps on cleansing,](#)

b. The word - [Eph. 5:26, talking about presenting a pure church, that he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water by the word. Jn. 17:17, sanctify them through thy word thy word is truth](#). I'm reading it but it's reading me. [Study it, meditate on it, receive it & respond, be doers not hearers only.](#)

c. Holy Spirit - [2 Thess. 2:13, you are sanctified by the Spirit of our God](#). He convicts & teaches. [Jn. 14:26, But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.](#)

G. #7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.

1. Heb. 12:14, follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
1 Thess. 4:7, God has not called us to uncleanness, but to holiness

2. This is sought after and followed. **Be ye therefore perfect (mature & whole) even as your father which is in heaven perfect (Matt. 5:48).** It's a taking off & putting on. **Ceasing to do evil and learning to do well. Growing up and putting away childish things.**

H. #8. In the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.

I. #9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

1. Immerse. **John baptized with water but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not days hence.**

2. Initial, first, there are others, but this is first. **Acts 2, 8 (Simon saw disciples laying hands he offered \$), 10 (Cornelius), 19 (have you received since ye believed?).** Difference in being born & filled (water in a glass)

3. "As the Spirit gave utterance" 2 speak at once. It's my tongue & mouth & voice. I speak as... **He will testify of me.** Burger King: Hold the pickles... you don't get the HG w/out tongues. No such thing as HG w/out power, joy, anointing either.

J. #10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

1. Going into water means death but coming out means birth, **born of water & Spirit.**

2. **Jesus came up out of the water.** He went down into the Jordan & the Jordan flows into the Dead Sea & nothing lives in the Dead Sea. It represents that our sins have passed into the sea of God's forgetfulness never to be remembered against us anymore. It means that once you're baptized your past is over, that **your life is hid w/Christ in God.**

3. Death, burial, & resurrection. That your old man is dead. **Rom. 6:4, You're walking in the newness of life.**

K. #11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.

1. **Ps. 103:3, he forgives all our iniquities and heals all our diseases**

2. **Matt. 8:17, himself took our infirmities there are sicknesses**

3. **Is. 53:4-5, he bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, he was stricken smitten of God and afflicted. He was wounded for our transgressions... With his stripes we are healed. 1 Pet. 2:24, who stripes you were healed.**

4. **James. 5:14-16, Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

L. #12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet.

Bread & wine (grape juice). In remembrance & in anticipation. **We show forth His death till He come.**

M. #13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.

Pre-trib, mid-trib, post trib. Pre-trib. Then 2nd coming. 1,000 years

N. #14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked. Heaven for saved & hell for sinners. No liberation nor annihilation

III. Practical.

A. Spiritual example. We will demonstrate our commitment to Christ through our practice of the spiritual disciplines; we will demonstrate our commitment to the body of Christ through our loyalty to God and commitment to His church; and we will demonstrate our commitment to the work of Christ through our being good stewards.

1. Practice of Spiritual Disciplines. This involves such practices as prayer, praise, worship, confession, fasting, meditation and study.

a. Prayer. Max Lucado said, "When we work, we work, but when we pray God works." Jer. 33:3... We need to pray & pray early. Notice how many times the heroes of faith got up early. Gen. 19:27, And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD" Job 1:5, "Job rose up early to offer sacrifices for his children" Ps. 63:1, O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee. Prov. 8:17, those that seek me early shall find me. Mk. 1:35, And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out & departed into a solitary place & there prayed. Pray early & often, "men ought always to pray & not faint", "pray w/out ceasing" "praying always w/all prayer & supplication..."

aa. The disciples fell asleep on Jesus 3 times in Garden. He finally said, Matt. 26:45, "sleep on now". May we never be unconscious to the voice of prayer. If we'd be sensitive to the voice of prayer there'd be a lot of things we wouldn't walk into, pray that ye enter not into temptation & deliver us from evil. We'd react differently... say things differently... make better decisions... be better husbands & fathers, wives & mothers...

bb. Jesus reacted to their sleeping "the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." One of the signs that you're out of order is when you no longer desire spiritual things, you lost your appetite for church, prayer & study. When in order you look forward to coming to church, having an hour to spend w/God. You say, "the kids are away today I'm gonna turn phone off, read Psalms or Proverbs, cut worship music on & spend time w/God."

b. Through private & public worship we bless God, have communion with Him, and are provided daily with spiritual enrichment & through periods of fasting we draw close to God,

2. Loyalty to God and Commitment to the Church. The life of Christian discipleship calls for the fulfillment of our duties to the body of Christ. We are to unite regularly with other members of the church for the purpose of magnifying and praising God and hearing His Word (Matthew 18:20; John 4:23; Acts 2:42, 46, 47; 12:24; Hebrews 10:25). Sunday is the Christian day of worship. As the Lord's Day, it commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead (Matthew 28:1) and should be employed for worship, fellowship, Christian service, teaching, evangelism, and proclamation (Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Colossians 2:16, 17).

3. We are to provide for the financial needs of the church by the giving of tithes (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23) and offerings (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-24; 9:1-15).

a. Giving tells where your heart is. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

b. Giving is the remedy to materialism & strengthens our faith. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing. Prov. 3:5, 9-10

c. Sacrificial - They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service. 2 Cor. 8:3-4

d. Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity! 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB). Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver!" 2 Corinthians 9:7b

e. Giving is an investment. Give and it will be given to you... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously also will reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6

4. Good stewards. In the Scriptures, the virtues of thrift and simplicity are honored, but the vices of waste is prohibited (Parable of Talents). The living of a Godly and sober life requires the wise and frugal use of our temporal blessings, including time, talent, and money. As good stewards we are to make the most of our time, whether for recreation or for work (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5). All our work and play should honor the name of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). As good stewards we must use fully talents (our spiritual gifts) (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4 : 9 - 11) and natural talents (Matthew 25:14-30) for the glory of God.

B. Moral purity. We will engage in those activities which glorify God in our body and which avoid the fulfillment of the lust of the flesh, lust of eye, & pride of life. We will read, watch and listen to those things which are of positive benefit to our spiritual well-being.

1. Glorifying God in Our Body. Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and we are to glorify God in our body (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31). We are to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). Sinful practices which are made prominent and condemned in these scriptures include homosexuality, adultery.

2. Reading, Watching and Listening. The literature we read, the programs we watch and the music we listen to profoundly affect the way we feel, think and behave. It is imperative that we read, watch and listen to those things which inspire, instruct and challenge to a higher plane of living. Therefore, literature, programs and music which are worldly in content or pornographic in nature must be avoided. Avoid things of a demoralizing nature (Romans 13:14; Philippians 4:8) or discredit to the Christian testimony (2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22; 1 John 2:15-17).

C. Personal integrity. We will live in a manner that inspires trust and confidence, bearing the fruit of the Spirit and seeking to manifest the character of Christ in all our behavior.

1. Trust and confidence. A Christian should be trustworthy, dependable and a person of his word (Matthew 5:37; 1 Peter 2:11, 12). Conversation, conduct, & character are to be as such that reflect Christ (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1).

2. Fruit of the Spirit. We will manifest the attitudes and actions of God knowing that a lack of fruit-bearing in our lives will be judged (Matthew 7:16-20; Luke 13:6-9; John 15:1-8).

3. Love for others is the hallmark of the Christ-life (John 13:34, 35; 15:9-13; 1 John 4:7-11). In His relationship with others, He demonstrated acceptance (John 8:11), compassion (Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34) and forgiveness (Matthew 9:2; Luke 5:20).

D. Family responsibility . This is fulfilling family responsibilities (working, providing clothing, food, shelter, transportation). As well as to preserving the sanctity of marriage and maintaining divine order in the home.

1. Priority of the family. The family is the basic unit of human relationship and as such is foundational to both society and the church (Genesis 2:18-24). The practice of Christian disciplines and virtues should begin in the home (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7).

2. Sanctity of marriage. Marriage is ordained of God and is a spiritual union in which a man and a woman are joined by God to live together as one (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7). Because of the divine character of marriage, it is a lifelong commitment with the only clear biblical allowance for divorce being fornication (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). Sexual involvement, either before marriage or with someone other than the marriage partner, is strictly forbidden in Scripture (Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-18). Partners should strive to maintain a happy, harmonious and holy relationship.

3. Divine order in the home. When God created man, He created them male and female (Genesis 1:27). He gave them distinctly different characteristics (1 Corinthians 11: 14, 15; 1 Peter 3:7) as well as different responsibilities (Genesis 3:16-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7). In God's order, the husband is head of the home (Ephesians 5:22-31; Colossians 3:18, 19), parents are to nurture and admonish their children (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21), and children are to obey and honor their parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20).

E. Behavioral temperance. We will practice temperance in behavior and will abstain from activities and attitudes which are offensive to our fellowman or which lead to addiction or enslavement.

1. Temperance or self-control (1 Corinthians 9:25; Titus 1:8, 2:2). It is listed as fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23). We are admonished to practice moderation and balance (Philippians 4:5). The Scripture indicates that it is within our prerogative to control our thinking (Philippians 4:8), our anger (Ephesians 4:26) and our communication (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8).

2. Offensive Behavior. (Romans 14:13-21; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13).

3. Addiction and Enslavement. Freedom from the domination of negative forces (John 8:32, 36; Romans 6:14; 8:2). We are told not to put ourselves again under bondage (Galatians 5:1). Therefore, a Christian must totally abstain from all alcoholic beverages and other habit-forming and mood-altering chemical substances and refrain from the use of tobacco in any form, marijuana and all other addictive substances, and further, must refrain from any activity (such as gambling or gluttony) which defiles the body as the temple of God or which dominates and enslaves the spirit that has been made free in Christ (Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-35; Isaiah 28:7; 1 Corinthians 3:17; 5:11; 6:10; 2 Corinthians 7:1; James 1:21).

F. Modest appearance. We will demonstrate the scriptural principle of modesty by appearing and dressing in a manner that will enhance our Christian testimony and will avoid pride, elaborateness or sensuality.

1. Modesty. We recoil from anything unseemly and impure & are to be chaste in thought and conduct, and is free of crudeness and indecency in dress and behavior (Ephesians 4:25, 29, 31; 5:1-8; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10). This is our appearance, dress, speech and conduct and can be applied. It is not displeasing to God for us to dress well and be well groomed. However, above all we must seek spiritual beauty, which does not come from outward adornment, but from good works, chaste conversation, and a meek and quiet spirit (Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 3:3-5).

2. Pride, Elaborateness, Sensuality. Avoid dressing in a manner that encourages immoral thoughts, attitudes and lifestyles (Galatians 5:13-21; 1 Peter 2:11, 2 Peter 1:4). Our beauty does not depend on elaborate, showy dress extravagant, costly attire or on the use of jewelry or cosmetics, but on our relationship with Christ.

G. Social obligation. It should be our objective to fulfill our obligations to society by being good citizens, by correcting social injustices, and by protecting the sanctity of life.

1. Being Good Citizens requires us to act in a responsible manner as citizens of our country (Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). Therefore, we should support civil law and order; hold our leaders in respect and pray for them; participate in school, community and governmental activities; exercise our voting rights; and speak out on clear-cut moral issues. God's law is supreme, but we are to obey the laws of our country insofar as they are not in conflict with obedience to God (Acts 5:29). When it becomes necessary to disagree with practices and requirements of government, we should do so out of a concern for the promotion of righteousness and not out of delight in discord and controversy.

2. Correcting Social Injustices. Love for others and the recognition of the equal worth of all men in the sight of God (Acts 10:34; 17:26) should compel us to take steps to improve the situation of those who are underprivileged, neglected, hungry, homeless and victimized by prejudice, persecution and oppression (Matthew 22:39; Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 3:17). In all of our dealings, we must be sensitive to human needs (Luke 10:30-37; James 1:27) and guard against racial and economic discrimination.

3. Protecting the Sanctity of Life. God alone confers life (Genesis 1:1-31); therefore, we are responsible to God to care for our physical life and that of others. Since God alone confers life, God alone must decide when it is to be ended (Psalm 31:14, 15). Because a human fetus is sacred and blessed of God, we believe that we have the responsibility to protect the life of the unborn (Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41). It is our firm conviction that abortion and euthanasia of aged, mentally incompetent, terminally ill and otherwise handicapped, for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment or economic advantage, are morally wrong. Furthermore, we believe it is our Christian responsibility to care for the earth and its resources, we don't have a license to pollute our natural environment or to waste the resources of the earth.