

Sustainable Christianity: How To Cultivate a Lasting Faith

Tri-State Community Church – John Wandsnider

May 24, 2020

Part 2: Sustainable Christianity – Understanding God’s ‘Economy’

What is the Father’s value system? What is God’s Economy?

Matthew 18:1-4 NIV

“¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

The disciples were interested in how they _____ . They wanted to know how they _____ with each other, in Jesus’ eyes.

We long to bless our own children with all the _____ things for life.

Matt. 6:25-34: _____

We also love to introduce them to the _____ things in life.

How much more is this true of God to/for us?

Matt. 7:9-11: _____

Psalm 84:11: _____

Romans 8:32 _____

1Tim. 6:17: _____

Exodus 33:17- _____

Gen 1:1-31: _____

James 1:16-17: _____

How much more does God desire to _____ to us!?

We need to trust that what God has for us is _____ !

What does it mean to ‘humble ourselves’? What is humility?

Philippians 2:5-8 ESV

“⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5, Proverbs 3:34, etc.

“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Part 2: Sustainable Christianity – Understanding God’s ‘Economy’
(Continued)

Humility is at the heart of _____. It is necessary to _____
_____. It is necessary for _____ faith. Central to
'Humility' is to trust that what God has for us is _____!

What part does humility play in the gospel? What part does humility play in Sustainable Faith?

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 NIV

"¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born."

This is the gospel – the _____!

What part do we play in the gospel, according to Paul's description? _____

Other 'gospel' passages:

Romans 6:23 ESV

"²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

"⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Eternal Salvation: For by _____ grace... through _____ faith

By God's _____... through our _____.

Salvation, and sustainable faith involves His _____, and it involves our _____.

John 3:16

"¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Embracing God's economy is the foundation for a sustainable faith. It is the basis for becoming a more _____, and a more _____ Christian.

But it gets even better...