

# **Sustainable Christianity: How To Cultivate a Lasting Faith**

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## **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

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

*“<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> 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

*"<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> 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

*"<sup>23</sup> 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

*"<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> 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

*"<sup>16</sup> 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...