



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday –April 28, 2024

To Know Christ...

2 Peter 1:5 “5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply ... moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge...”

1 Peter 2:9 “9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

What comes to mind when you think of “Excellence”? Perhaps the thought of being outstanding at a certain task or skill, maybe someone who is not simply average, but excels far above average to even stretch towards higher heights. In English, when someone is “excelling”, they possess an exceptional skill or superiority to the typical standard, but how does that happen? Practice, we usually get better at what we practice, for better or worse.

Is there something you are excellent at doing? Peter's instruction directs us to keep adding Moral Excellence to faith. Faith demands a godly response. Is our morality well above the norm, even godly? Are we exemplary in our morality within every aspect of our lives in Christ? (Wow, that sounds towering!) Whatever you are excellent at doing, it is because you have dedicated your mind, time, and efforts continually to grow within it.

When we were infants in Christ, we were still very fleshly, not yet spiritually mature. Did you ever try just to control your mouth when you were angry? We struggled with just that one simple task. Then we either became hardened or started striving for a Christ-like Moral Excellence. In choosing righteousness by faith, we learned to say gentle words to encourage, even when wronged. Then we learned to forgive in the moment without holding a grudge. Next, we realized that God has called us to show grace and patience, not to merely hold our tongues. We finally came to be selfless in the heat of the moment, rather than outbursts of anger. How did this growth come? Striving for Moral Excellence. That is how we proclaim the excellencies of God who has called us out of darkness into HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT! God is so excellent that I want to be like HIM! How thankful we should be for His forgiveness, mercy, grace, and patience with us as we grow within Moral Excellence. What should be addressed first (or next) in your moral character?

- Carey Terry