

1/24/21R

### Who/What We Pursue & Focus On

The ultimate goal of this class is to explain how to develop the capacity for Unconditional Love [UL], so that we can actually fulfill the allelos, “one another” commands of the New Testament.

Jn 13:14 – serve one another

Jn 13:34 – love one another

Rom 12:10 – devoted to one another in brotherly love

There are 2 ways that believers try to fulfill these one another commands:

By using human will, energy, personality, intellect & emotion to create a simulation of love, producing the appearance of love by being nice to others.

Human niceness & sweetness is not agape love

Possessing spiritual knowledge is not the same as living spiritual life.

By surrendering to WG/GHS who enables us to exchange our earthly beliefs to meet our needs with trust in the Lord for our own needs giving us the ability to give freely, knowing that He will keep our cup full and overflowing.

So, we are explaining how our thinking was developed so that we can understand the choices we have made and why, even though these choices were made long ago, they continue to influence how we think, feel & act today.

In our early life we attach our hearts to people & pursue intimate relations with people, believing that human love relationships are God’s plan for meeting our needs – logical because we are unable to know God.

Regardless of how good, all of our human relations fall short of meeting our needs & often are the source of heartache & pain, instead of happiness.

We are all fragile, especially in the beginning, we hurt easily and yet we are thrust out into the devil’s world, knowing nothing, with a nature to make ourselves the center – we misunderstand everything & we use our false conclusions as our beliefs for living life.

When we are hurt by rejection, abandonment, betrayal, neglect then we react defensively to minimize the pain we feel – defense mechanisms

We use blame, numbness, self-deception, self-improvement & many other defenses to protect self from seeing that we are barking up the wrong tree trying to get our needs met through each other – we have to look up.

### Pursuing & Focusing

Col 3:1-2 Since (1cc) you have been raised up with Christ (positional), keep on seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Seeking – zeteo – PAImpv to seek, pursue, try to find, try to obtain

Present Tense: occurring in moment, right now, continuous action in the present

Active Voice: Subject produces action by choosing what he/she will pursue

Imperative Mood: A command, an admonition or encouragement

Pursue the things above where Christ is seated – our true identity

Pursue understanding of our position in Christ – our permanent identity & access to Royal assets

God seeks us Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jn 4:23 GF seeks worshippers in Spirit & truth

We seek God Acts 17:27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Seek the Kingdom of God – Mat 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Seek Father's will, not my own – John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Greek zeteo indicates our life pursuit for what will give us happiness

We seek & pursue that which we believe will fill the emptiness within

What we pursue is what we have chosen to believe will meet our need

We refuse to pursue that which we don't believe has value for us

The things above compared to the things of the earth

The one we believe/expect has the most value is who we desire & pursue

We form an image of what we believe will meet our needs & pursue that image until we either decide we have gotten it or won't ever get it.

All images formed out of our old man thinking are at best a fantasized version of reality and at worst, total Disneyland.

Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints – create an image of our life in Christ

Set your Mind – phroneo PAImpv – to focus your mind, to consider, a mind-set, to focus all your mental abilities;

Visual: we create images & scenarios of the issues on which we are focused

We use inner dialogue discussion to debate & consider the images we make

Present – continuous action in present time – keep on focusing

Active – subject produces the action by choosing the object of mental focus

Imperative – command, admonition, encouragement

phroneo

Focused on things of man, not God Mat 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Focused on Unity Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be conceited, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Think the same thing - 2 Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you – think the same thing from learning the same principles.

Focused on earthly things - Phil 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetites, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

What we pursue & set up as a goal determines where we focus our mind's faculties & abilities to obtain it

We initially & instinctively focus our minds on the things of the earth because we believe that the things of the earth will meet our needs & make us happy

As we grow & mature we realize that true joy and happiness come from God & that our primary need in life is for God's unconditional love (UL)

Exchanging our deeply held Old Man heart beliefs for New Man beliefs in Christ is a life long journey that appears to have no end in this life.

A mind-set is a fixed belief, attitude & strategy about any issue in life – Unconditional love is a relational approach that we lock into our mind as a fixed way of treating others.

Edification – Building your beliefs, expectations and relational strategies

oikodomeo – to build a physical structure or to build a belief & thought structure

Isaiah 28:9-10 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little

Ideas & concepts are built upon other ideas & concepts in the soul of a human being – GHS uses the same faculties & processes to build our spiritual understanding

Matthew 7:24-26 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. 25 "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. 26 "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand.

The analogy of building a physical house to the building of a belief system  
Just as one brick is built on another, so is one idea built on another  
As the next brick is laid on top of the foundation laid by previous bricks, so our ideas are built upon the foundation of our previously believed ideas.

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

The church is built, adding one believer at a time – living stones 1Pt 2:5  
Our Old Man worldly beliefs were built one idea at a time – Our New Man beliefs are built the same way, one idea at a time.

1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it.

As a teacher, Paul builds the truth into those who hear/obey his words  
He uses basic doctrines to build a foundation of Christian beliefs in the soul  
Other teachers build more advance concepts upon the basic foundation.

We develop our ideas as we experience life events, evaluate them & reach conclusions that we then believe, forming a brick in the building in your heart  
The ideas that we believe and build into our hearts today become the basis for how we evaluate/conclude regarding our new experiences tomorrow.  
If our foundational ideas are false, directing our journey to meet our needs in the wrong direction, our life results will be hurtful, causing reactive thinking.  
The feelings & behaviors that we live with today were formed out of our past experiences & the conclusions we adopted as building blocks of thinking