

# CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP SEMINAR



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Topic:  
**“Christian Perfection”**

# SEMINAR

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## Christian Perfection

Key Verses: I Thessalonians 5:23, 24

- I. Christian Perfection is that process in which our hearts are purified by faith.** (Ezek. 36:25-27)
- A. Baptism is an outward symbol of the inward purity that accompanies our new birth. (25)
  - B. Regeneration involves the imparting of God's nature into our hearts as believers. (26)
  - C. Conversion results in our being indwelt by the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. (27)
  - D. The indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to live according to God's commandments. (27)
- II. Christian Perfection is that process in which we have the love of God perfected in us.**
- A. Christian Perfection is that process in which we grow in our love for God.
    - 1. The Holy Spirit sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts. (Romans 5:5)
    - 2. As we are perfected in love holy boldness comes and fears leave. (1 Jn. 4:17,18)
    - 3. We love God more and more, because He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)
    - 4. We grow to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mk.12:30)
  - B. Christian Perfection is that process in which we grow in our love for others.
    - 1. The more we love God, the more we will love those around us. (1 Jn. 4:20-22)
    - 2. We are to grow in our love for both believers and nonbelievers. (1 Thes. 3:12, 13)
    - 3. We are to grow in our love for all people by doing the following. (1 Thes. 4:9-12)
      - a. By aspiring to lead a peaceful life
      - b. By respecting the privacy of others
      - c. By aspiring to lead a productive life: providing for family/helping those in need (Eph. 4:28)
      - d. By treating fairly and properly those who are outside the church
      - e. By being responsible in every way
  - C. Christian Perfection is that process in which we grow in our love for those hard to love. (Matt. 5:38-48)
    - 1. We are to love those who would do evil to us and not resist them. (38-42)
      - a. Those who would slap us
      - b. Those who would sue us
      - c. Those who would force us to serve
      - d. Those who would beg or borrow from us
    - 2. We are to love those who are our enemies. (43-44)
      - a. Bless those who curse us.
      - b. Do good to those who hate us.
      - c. Pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us.
    - 3. We are to love like God loves, being kind to the evil and the good. (45)
    - 4. We are to love and greet everyone, not just those who are nice to us. (46-47)
    - 5. We are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. [Christian Perfection] (48)

**III. Christian Perfection is that process in which we answer the call to sanctification.** (1 Thes. 4:1-8)

- A. Christian Perfection is that process in which we live in a manner that pleases God. (1)
- B. Christian Perfection is that process in which we learn to obey the Lord's commands. (2)
- C. Christian Perfection is that process in which we pursue holiness or sanctification. (3-8)
  - 1. Sanctification or holiness is God's will for us. (3)
  - 2. Our sex life should be an expression of our holiness. (3-6)
    - a. We must abstain from sexual immorality.
    - b. We must control our own bodies honorably.
    - c. We must live differently from unbelievers who live in the passion of lust.
    - d. We must not take advantage of people, we know that God will avenge.
  - 3. God calls us to holiness not uncleanness. (7)
  - 4. Rejection of this divine calling is a rejection of God, who gave us His Spirit. (8)

**IV. Christian Perfection is that process in which we grow to maturity in Christ in the environment of a healthy church.** (1 Thes. 5:12-24)

- A. In a healthy church we recognized our spiritual leaders. (12-13)
  - 1. We absolutely respect their authority.
  - 2. We conditionally obey their admonishments.
  - 3. We sincerely appreciate their work and labor.
- B. In a healthy church we live peaceably with one another. (13)
- C. In a healthy church we treat persons according to their needs. (14)
  - 1. We correct the unruly, undisciplined, or lazy.
  - 2. We encourage the fearful, timid, and fainthearted.
  - 3. We strengthen the weak in faith.
  - 4. We are patient with everyone.
- D. In a healthy church we do not allow retaliation, but seek what is best for everyone. (15)
- E. In a healthy church we challenge people to nurture their inner spiritual life. (16-18)
  - 1. We challenge them to rejoice always.
  - 2. We challenge them to pray without ceasing.
  - 3. We challenge them to give thanks to God in every situation.
- F. In a healthy church we respect the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (19-24)
  - 1. We do not quench the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. We do not despise the messages that the Holy Spirit sends to us in prophecy.
  - 3. We do not naively accept every message that claims divine authority, but test them.
  - 4. We do hold fast to every good teaching.
  - 5. We do abstain from every form of evil.
  - 6. We do trust the Holy Spirit to sanctify us completely; spirit, soul, and body.