

The Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 6:3-11

Introduction

The Bible includes the revelation of a great mystery. It was hidden in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. This great mystery is the uniqueness of the person of Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God, His perfect life, substitutionary death and exultation into heaven. The whole Bible points to Christ and tells the story of our need for salvation and the hope of reconciliation to God through the person of Jesus Christ.

However, once we are reconciled to God through belief in Jesus Christ, we are to aim for a life of godliness. But how is godliness achieved exactly? The way to godliness is again a mystery that is only revealed through Christ. Christ in us is the key to this mystery! As we spend time with Him, grow in Him, and seek to have lives that please Him, He will be free to express Himself in us and godliness will manifest.

You cannot manufacture godliness on our own. That is what religion tries to do. If you try to live life based on a predetermined list of rules, you will also be attempting to force yourself to be something you cannot be without Christ at work in you. It is as Christ expresses Himself through us that we are transformed from the inside out.

What is the mystery of godliness? It's Christ... expressing His godliness in us. We must change our perspective from trying to attain godliness to cultivating a relationship with Christ. As we grow in Him, our relationship with Him will change our actions and our hearts.

Getting Started

1. What is one message that resonated with you from today's sermon?
2. In your own words, describe why we need Christ in order to be reconciled to God.

Let's Get Personal

1. Cultivating a relationship with Christ must be intentional. Share with your group how you were able this past week to cultivate your relationship with Christ.
2. As we grow in Christ, He will convict us of areas where we can be more like Him and therefore achieve a greater level of godliness in our lives. Is there an area of your life in which you have been convicted as you seek to be more like Christ?
3. Have you experienced success in seeing change in your life as you have grown in Christ? If so, share this with your group to encourage other members.

Take the Next Step

1. Sometimes Christ reveals to us areas in our life that need change but we are reluctant to change. Is there an area of your life where you have been made aware that change is necessary but have remained unwilling to submit? Sometimes the best place to start with change is to admit where we are currently struggling. Share that area with your group for accountability, encouragement, and prayer.
2. As we continue this series on "The Pursuit of Godliness", take time to pray (individually or in your group) and ask God to show you what areas of your life need to change as you seek and pursue a life that is pleasing to Him.

Renew Your Mind

"...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness..." 1 Timothy 6:11