

Definitions

Abide: Dwelling in or living in, as found in John 8:31-32 and John 15:1-7. But what does it mean “to abide in his word”? It means to put his words into action, to act according to them. When we do that we “inhale” the reality of the kingdom.

Anger: A response towards those who have interfered with us, it includes a will to harm them, or the beginnings thereof.

Apologetics: A helping ministry of believers, relevant to both the evangelistic and the pastoral role, in which people with existential, concrete problems that hinder their trusting God in Christ are helped to a better view of the truths of God, of redemption and of life in the Kingdom. Bringing information and logic to bear to answer or resolve intellectual or cognitive questions and impasses with respect to the faith of a person or persons.

Argument: A course of reasoning aimed at demonstrating truth or falsehood in an attempt to persuade others by giving reasons for accepting a particular conclusion. An argument is judged from two perspectives: 1) Form, does the argument have all the right parts (premises and conclusion). 2) The contents of the premises are themselves true.

Belief: Readiness to act as if what you believe were true. When your whole being is set to act as if something is so.

The Bible: The unique written Word of God. It is inerrant in its original form and infallible in all of its forms for the purpose of guiding you into a life-saving relationship with God in His kingdom. The Bible contains a body of knowledge without which human beings cannot survive. It reliably fixes the boundaries of everything God will ever say to humankind.

The Body: Our independent power source for action. It is the little "power pack" that God has assigned to us as the field of our freedom and development. The place from which we live.

Celebration: The completion of worship, for it dwells on the greatness of God as shown in His goodness to us.

Character: That internal, overall structure of the self that is revealed by our long-run patterns of behavior and from which our actions more or less automatically arise. What we will seriously think about is one of the strongest indications of how our character has grown.

Chastity: Choosing to turn away from sexual thoughts and images.

Confess: To own up to a condition of your soul.

Consumers of Religious Services: Those who attend church functions regularly without ever engaging in discipleship.

Contempt: To think or speak of someone in such a degrading way that they are dehumanized. It spits on the deep need to belong and is inherently poisonous. It stabs the soul to its core and deflates its powers of life. Contempt can hurt so badly and destroy so deeply that murder would almost be a mercy.

Death to Self: The willingness to trust the Kingdom of God where we are with what we are and what we're doing in a way that will allow that Kingdom to come into play.

Disciple: Someone who has decided to be with another person, under appropriate conditions, in order to become capable of doing what that person does or to become what that person is.

- Disciple (apprentice) of Jesus: Anyone who is learning from him how to lead their life as he would lead their life if he were they.
- Place of discipleship: Where you are
- Discipleship may be loosely described as staying as close to Jesus Christ as possible.

Disciplines: Activities we engage in that are within our power and enable us to do what we cannot do by direct effort, because in this way we meet the action of God (grace) with us, and the outcome is humanly inexplicable. This is what it means to speak of discipline as "a means to grace." They are required in every area of life, including the spiritual.

> **A Spiritual Discipline** – on the Christian understanding—is a discipline focused upon enhancement of the interactive life of Grace in the (spiritual) Kingdom of the Heavens. Examples: Solitude, Fasting, Chastity and Secrecy are disciplines of abstinence; Study, Confession, Submission and Worship are disciplines of engagement.

The Divine Conspiracy: God's plan to overcome evil with good in human history.

Eternal Life (Living): Interactive relationship with God and Jesus.

Ethics: A fundamental human device for directing using how we ought to live. Can point the way to good, but is unable to provide a life that is good.

Evil: Human wrath that is an explosive, unrestrained impulse to hurt or harm. It is the raw intention to harm others. Evil gets worse when combined with "righteousness" (a sense of one's own superiority), which is a deadly combination.

Exile: The normal human condition. Have you noticed we're not in The Garden anymore?

Faith: Confidence grounded in reality. It sees the reality of the unseen or invisible, and it includes a readiness to act as if the good anticipated in hope were already in hand because of the reality of God. Faith is not the confidence that God will do for you what you want Him to do for you...It is the conviction that you can do what He wants you to do for Him and let Him take care of the consequences. Faith is not the means of avoiding pain, suffering, and danger. It is the basis upon which we can endure, understand and fight against the evil that causes pain and suffering.

Fasting: Feasting upon God. Being nourished by God. The function of Fasting is to teach you how to be sweet, strong and kind when you don't get what you want.

Forgiveness: It's almost like oxygen, it's the grease of life.

Frugality: Abstaining, as a discipline, from using money or goods at our disposal in ways that merely gratify our desires or our hunger for status, glamour or luxury.

Godliness: Adequacy of resources rooted deeply in the reality of God.

Good: What is good for anything is what fulfills its nature.

Grace: God acting in our life to bring about, and to enable us to do, what we cannot do on our own. (2 Tim. 2:1) Grace is for whole life and not just for forgiveness. It is not opposed to effort (action)—though it is opposed to earning (attitude). Grace is inextricably bound up with discipline in the life of the disciple or apprentice of Jesus. —“Grace,” of course, as an active agency in the psychological and biological reality of the disciple. While Spirit-driven, we are not passive. If we do not take appropriate action, it will not happen. Hence, all the commands of the New Testament on what we are to do, e.g. Colossians 3:1-17.

Joy: Joy is not pleasure, a mere sensation, but a pervasive and constant sense of wellbeing. It claims our entire body and soul, both the physical and the non-physical side of the human self. Hope in the goodness of God is joy's indispensable support.

Holiness: Otherness or separateness from the ordinary realm of human existence.

Hope: Joyous anticipation of good.

Kingdom of God: The range of God's effective will, where what God wants done is done. It is an everlasting metaphysical reality, the natural home of the soul: God and His reign "from everlasting to everlasting."

Kingdom Living: Living in the character and power of God, living from the resources of the Kingdom. Includes accepting the fact that we don't have to have our way.

Knowledge: The act (or capacity) of representing (thinking about, talking about, dealing with) a corresponding subject matter as it is, on an appropriate basis of thought and experience, including good "authority." Knowledge, biblically, is interactive relationship with what is known.

Law: The course of rightness, but not the source of rightness.

Life: Self-directing, self-initiating, self-sustained activity, of some kind and some degree.

> **Spiritual Life:** A kind of an activity independent of the physical.

Love: The will for the good of others. This is not delight. You don't like everything you love. Love is the foundation of the spiritual life

Marriage: To give oneself to another person in the most intimate and inclusive of human relationships, to support him or her for good in every way possible – physically, emotionally, and spiritually; but in every conceivable dimension of his or her being. Mutual submission to each other in awe of the Lord. Marriage is a particular kind of union of body, soul and spirit under God, not just whatever we say it is. The various alternatives being discussed must meet this challenge.

Mind: Where our thoughts and feelings originate.

Morality: A shared (public) understanding, with associated emotional postures, concerning which types of persons are to be (or not be) admired, approved, imitated, encouraged and supported, without regard to whether they prosper or are able to accomplish what they desire.

Naturalism: The view (roughly) that all that exists are physical objects such as we visibly see about us from day to day and their physical constituents (atoms, sub-atomic 'particles' and 'forces'). Another way of specifying Naturalism is to say that the particular sciences are the sole arbiters of what exists and what is known: that what cannot be dealt with "scientifically" cannot be known and does not exist. At this point, Naturalism has almost nothing to recommend it on rational grounds, and is primarily a political stance directed toward control of governmental and social policy, especially in research, education, and legislation.

Naturalistic: The belief that everything can be explained through nature and natural causes.

Peace: The rest of will that results from assurance about how things will turn out.

Philosophy: An attempt to think out the best way to live and how it is best to be and to do. It is distinctive of philosophy that it need not call upon revelation. It can, but it need not.

Physicalistic (Physicalism or Materialism): The belief that everything is physical and there is nothing beyond what we can see and touch.

Premises: Statements based on an assumption that something is true. In logic, an argument requires at least two premises along with the conclusion.

Profess: To put forth an understanding of something. [add knowledge path. Profession, Belief, Faith, Knowledge]

Proof: A process by which the possibility of falsity in the judgment to be shown true is eliminated. That possibility eliminated, it is impossible for the judgment to be false. (But certainly nearly everything we count as knowledge does not fall under that kind of strict requirement.)

Regeneration: Entry of God's nature and life into our real existence and identity.

Reality: What you run into when you're wrong.

Reason: The mental power to trace out connections in reality. It indicates the human destiny appointed by God.

- The reasonable person is the one who is devoted to truth, and to finding it and living in it by all available means.

Repent: To change the way you've been thinking and acting

Sanctification: Living in a relationship to the Master that brings and sustains right thoughts, feelings, choices, and habits, enabling one to do what is right religiously, morally, and prudentially, and to do this out of who one has become rather than from external obedience.

Salvation: Participating now in what Jesus is doing on earth. A life, not an event.

Scientism: The view, roughly, that there is something called "science" (singular) and that it is solely in charge of knowledge and reality.

Secrecy: The discipline of secrecy is a matter of choosing to not let our good deeds - and here we are talking specifically about deeds of service - be known.

Self-Confidence comes from relentlessly adhering to what you know to be good and right. (Allowing others to do whatever dance it is they're going to do around you.)

Self-Control: You are able to do what you intend to do.

Self-Subsistent: Something which doesn't depend on anything else for its existence: A mind, a will, which has its existence entirely within itself.

Service: In service we engage our goods and abilities in the active promotion of the good of others. We do this solely for their benefit, not for any reward we may derive from what we do.

Significance: We were built to count, as water is made to run downhill. We are placed in a specific context to count in ways no one else does. That is our destiny.

Sin: When we inwardly say “yes” to the temptation, when we would do the deed, even if we do not actually do it.

Social: Aspect of the human self that requires rootedness in others – people and God.

Solitude: The choice and practice of being alone, being apart from the press of the usual human connections. One effect of solitude will be that we will be able to love, help, hear and be with people more fully than ever before.

Soul: Encompasses and “organizes” the whole person, interrelates all other dimensions of the self (heart, mind, strength, social relationships) so that they form one person. It is a *spiritual* substance.

Spirit: Unbodily personal power

Spiritual Formation (without regard to any specifically religious context or tradition): The process by which the human spirit or will is given a definite “form” or character.

> **Spiritual Formation in Christ** (Christian Spiritual Formation): The process by which we become like Christ in our inner being, and its result is love of God with all of the heart, soul, mind, and strength, and of the neighbor as oneself.

Study: To focus our mind upon something to bring its substance and order into our mind and from there into the rest of our life.

Ten Commandments: God's gift of specific information on how best to conduct human existence.

Truth: A thought or statement is true provided that what it is about is as it is represented in the thought or statement. The thought or statement is an accurate representation of reality.

> **Absolute Truth:** All truth is absolute truth. If you believe you have gas in your gas tank, it's either absolutely true or absolutely false.

Vampire Christians: Those who just want a little of Christ's blood.

Virtue: The combination of skill, wisdom, power and steadfastness for good.

Will (or human spirit, heart): Part of the individual that originates things and events (freedom and creativity)

Work: A fundamental structure of love in the Kingdom of God.

Worship: The act and state of ascribing greatness to God in every respect, especially in immensity and in goodness, in knowledge and in power. Worship becomes the overall character of the renovated thought life and is the only safe place for a human being to stand.