

Hidden

A postscript on “love”

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (p. 1787)
- 1 John 3:11-16 (p. 1901)
- 1 John 4:19-21 (p. 1903)

Charity

Matthew 6:1-4 (p. 1503)

Why do we give to charity?

Deuteronomy 15:11 (p. 298)

- If there will always be poor, why do anything?

Why do other people give? Is it a sign of power and wealth? How do we reward “big donors”?

What does Jesus call on his followers to do when it comes to charity?

Rewards of mankind vs. rewards of God

Are there any doubts about the future reward?

Does this seem like a call to give just so we get a heavenly reward?

Is this passage in conflict with Matthew 5:16 (p. 1501)?

“The better righteousness of the disciples must have a motive which lies beyond itself. Of course it has to be visible, but they must take care that it does not become visible simply for the sake of becoming visible. There are of course proper grounds for insisting on the visible nature of Christian discipleship, but the visibility is never an end in itself; and if it becomes so we have lost sight of our primary aim, which is to follow Jesus.” – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

“Christ’s virtue, the virtue of discipleship, can only be accomplished so long as you are entirely unconscious of what you are doing. The genuine work of love is always a hidden work.” – *Bonhoeffer*

Muscle memory (left hand/right hand)

Prayer

What are different kinds of prayer?

Why do we pray?

Matthew 6:5-13 (p. 1504)

In v. 5, is Jesus talking about the prayers said in worship or at public functions?

3 p.m. “Private prayer”

Who was the audience for the ones Jesus likens to hypocrites?

“Go into your room, close the door” (Who is the intended audience?)

Babbling on

“What is here castigated is not length and repetition as such but a mistaken attitude that regards prayer as a magical means of manipulating God into doing our bidding.” – *Douglas R. Hare*

“Authentic prayer acknowledges that God is concerned about our needs before we ask him.” – *Hare*

“It matters little what form of prayer we adopt or how many words we use, what matters is the faith which lays hold on God and touches the heart of the Father who knew us long before we came to him.” – *Bonhoeffer*

Why does Jesus feel the need to teach his disciples how to pray?

Is there anything uniquely Christian about this prayer?

What is missing from this writing of the Lord’s Prayer? Why?