

Continuing on the path of the divine nature

2Peter 1:5-7

I. Have you ever stopped considered some of the heresies being introduced within the church today?

1. Some are rejecting baptism as necessary for salvation.
2. Some are advocating the use of the instrument in worship.
3. Some desire to expanded the roll of women in the worship service.
4. Others seek to expand the parameters of fellowship by embracing all who merely believe in Jesus.

II. Have you considered how these relate to your current state as a Christian?

1. As a Christian you are a partaker of the divine nature apart from these.
2. These did not have a part in making you what we are.
3. So then where is their place in your Christian life?

III. In our lesson from 2Peter today, we find that Peter is going to deal with a similar situation.

1. As Peter began his second epistle, he reminded these Christians of how they arrived at their current state.
2. It was through or by Jesus and not through what these false teachers are offering.

IV. Peter is now going to show that the path theses Christians took to get them to the point of being partakers of the divine nature is the path they must continue on.

V. The message is the same for us today. Instead of pursuing after what these change agents are bringing in, which they claim is the essence of true Christianity; we must continue to follow the path that led us to be partakers of the divine nature in the first place.

Trans: To keep them on this path Peter gives 7 true characteristics of the Christian life that they must add to their faith. This is where we want to begin.

1. What we are to add to our faith to continue being partakers of the divine nature

A. 2 Peter 1:5-7

B. Here Peter list's seven qualities of the Christian faith.

1. These seven qualities are what we are to be adding to our faith. The word *applying* (NASB), *add* in the KJV, Literally means, "bringing in by the side of."

2. Peter is saying, God did his part in providing the means to become partakers of the divine nature, you must do ours by adding these qualities.

3. We must also understand these qualities are all connected and stem from our faith, Beginning with faith, the first comes the second and so on.
4. We are also told as Christians that we are to pursue after these with a fervor.
5. And as Peter says in v.8, we must make these a permanent possession of ours and we must continue to increase in them.

C. Let's consider the seven qualities we are to add to our faith,

1. Moral excellence, also translated virtue (KJV) - v.5
 - a. This is the determination to do what is right, **1Cor. 16:13**
 - b. This word is also used in reference to Jesus, **2Peter 1:3**
2. Knowledge - v.5
 - a. This is an intellectual knowledge which is gained and grows out of the pursuit and practice of moral excellence.
 - b. Since we have determined to what is right we must seek to know what is right, **Heb. 5:14; Eph. 5:10,17.**
3. Self-control - v.6
 - a. The word self control is derived from a word that means "one who holds himself in," and denotes self government, Gal 5:22-23
 - b. Compared to a life giving in to our fleshly desires as the false teachers are promoting the Christian is to be in self control.
4. Perseverance - v. 6
 - a. This is a conscious submission of our human will to the Holy will of God and it involves more than resignation to life's difficulties.
 - b. This is a courageous resistance to hostile attack. Unlike patience it has an active content. We must keep on keeping on.
 - c. **1Tim. 6:11; 2Tim. 4:1ff**
5. Godliness - v.6
 - a. This is not the concept of God-like-ness, but God-ward-ness
 - b. It is a humble, reverent, deep piety towards God that leads to a godly life, **2Pet. 3:14; 2Tim. 3:12**
 - d. This is something the false teachers don't have.
6. Brotherly kindness - v.7
 - a. This is a love for the brethren
 - b. Love is part of the divine nature, **1John 4:7,8**
 - c. Loving the brethren is tied to this, **1John 5:1**
 - d. The false teachers don't have this love, **2Peter. 2:18**

7. Love - v.7

- a. This is the final quality of the Christian character.
- b. This is the agape love, not a love of emotion but of intellect.
- c. It is a decision of the mind that seeks the highest good for others.
- d. Again, the false teachers do not possess this because they are seeking that which pleases their own lusts, **2Peter 2:13,14**

Appl: An interesting fact about these qualities is that they stand in direct opposition to what the false teachers are offering.

2Pet 2:2 - a life of sensuality

2Pet 2:3 - a life of greed

2Pet. 2:10 - a life indulging in the flesh

2Pet. 2:13 - a life of reveling and carousing

2Pet 2:14 - a life full of sin and eyes full of adultery

The message Peter gave to these Christians is the same message we need to hear and understand today.

Instead of pursuing after what these change agents are bringing in, we must continue to follow the path that led us to be partakers of the divine nature in the first place.

We must diligently seek to to add these seven Christians qualities to our lives.

In our faith...

1. We must make a determination to do what is right
2. In seeking to what is right we must seek o know what is right
3. Knowing what is right we will control our desires to do what is wrong.
4. In controlling our desires we will need to actively stand against the hostile attacks of sin and those who oppose our life.
5. In persevering we must have an attitude that is humble ad reverent towards God so we might continue on.
6. Having that humble and reverent attitude we will love our brethren and we will seek their highest good.

Nothing that the change agents are bringing in today will help us become partakers of the divine nature and they certainly not something that needs to be added to our faith.