

Joy

• χαρά	chara	joy, delight
• Χάρις	charis	gift
• Εὐχαριστέω	euCHARISTeo	to give thanks

The Three Graces



Patronage society

- The giving and receiving of favors was, “practice that constitutes the chief bond of human society” (Seneca, *De beneficiis* 1.4.2)

Patronage society

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- 2) Gift – manifestation of the favor
- 3) Favor returned – disposition or feeling toward giver includes gift

Patronage society

“An act of favor and its manifestation (the gift) initiate a circle dance in which the recipients of favor and gifts must ‘return the favor,’ that is, give again to the giver (both in terms of a generous disposition and in terms of some gift, whether material or otherwise).

Patronage society

Only a gift requited is a gift well and nobly received. To fail to return favor for favor is, in effect, to break off the dance and destroy the beauty of the gracious act.”

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- Joy is the fuel that God intended to be utilized to propel the Christian life.

Three Main Motivations

- Logic or knowledge

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 - If _____X_____ is true, then _____Y_____ ought to be done.

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 - We do Y because it is our duty.

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 - Knowledge is an essential ingredient to the development of Christian character. But it usually inadequate by itself to bring about Christian maturity or aid in transformation.

Three Main Motivations

- Logic or knowledge
 - Duty is fuel that engages the mind but not the heart. It gives us a reason for why we do what we do, BUT it cannot provide a lasting passion for what we do.

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- If 1,000 people die each second not knowing the Lord, how can you not quit your job and become a street evangelist or missionary?
- How can you justify spending time with friends?

Three Main Motivations

- Guilt

- How can we possibly let ____Y____ happen or continue?
- If 1,000 people die each second not knowing the Lord, how can you not quit your job and become a street evangelist or missionary?
- How can you justify spending time with friends (OR SLEEPING)?

Three Main Motivations

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- I do _____Y_____ because I have decided or determined that the thing I desire is worth it.

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- I do _____Y_____ because I have decided or determined that the thing I desire is worth it. In fact, it is worth whatever I am going through or will go through.

Nehemiah 8

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¹⁰ Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Hebrews 12

Hebrews 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12

³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Matthew 2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Matthew 2

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

Matthew 2

⁶ ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of
Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Matthew 2

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

Matthew 2

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

Matthew 2

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Why did they make the trip?

Why should you go on following
Jesus?