

Introduction:

1. The focus word for this lesson is “abiding” - see Jn 8:31-32
2. Read text: *“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”*
3. We please God by abiding in proper things.

Proposition: To please God, we must abide in that which is proper.

Interrogative: What are some proper things we should abide in?

-- For the Christian to please God, he should abide in... --

I. FAITH**A. DEFINITION** - Greek word “pistis”

1. Biblical definition found - He 11:1
2. Thayer - *“the conviction that God exist and is creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ.”*

B. IMPORTANCE

1. Essential for...
 - a. Pleasing God - He 11:6
 - b. Forgiveness and eternal life - Jn 8:24; 20:30-31
2. Without faith doubt and fear prevail - Mt 14:30-31

C. ACTIVATION

1. The word of God is designed to produce faith - Ro 10:17
 - a. Converted Muslim - came from reading God’s word
 - b. Catholic priest - converted by reading pamphlet/Bible
2. For faith to be of value it must be active
 - a. Show faith without works... - Ja 2:18
 - b. Faith without works is dead - Ja 2:17, 26

II. HOPE**A. DEFINITION**

1. Thayer - *“joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.”*
2. Biblical passages:
 - a. Paul - Ac 26:5-7
 - b. Peter - 1Pe 3:15

B. IMPORTANCE

1. Hope is essential for perseverance - Ro 8:24-25
“For if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”
2. Hope is our motivation for purity - 1Jn 3:3
3. Without hope, our focus on heavenly things is lost.

C. ACTIVATION

1. The word of God is designed to produce hope - Ro 15:4
 - a. Through the eye to the past, we know God keeps His word.

- b. Through this we can be confident of God's promises.
- 2. Note the words of Peter - 1Pe 1:13-16
 - a. Our hope is activated when rested fully on Christ.
 - b. When rested fully on Christ, our hope motivates purity.

III. LOVE

A. DEFINITION

- 1. Note Paul's definition - 1Co 13:4-8
- 2. Simple definition - *Active goodwill*

B. IMPORTANCE

- 1. Gives us the confidence in daily living - 1Jn 3:16-19
- 2. Gives us assurance in our prayers - 1Jn 3:22-23
- 3. Gives us assurance that we abide in God - 1Jn 4:7-8

C. ACTIVATION

- 1. The Thessalonians were taught by God how to love - 1Th 4:9
- 2. God taught love through sending His Son - 1Jn 4:9-11
- 3. When we find it hard to love, let us look to the example of Christ - Ro 5:6-8

Conclusion:

- 1. Our basic goal as Christians is to live a life pleasing unto God.
- 2. We can certainly please God when we abide in faith, hope, & love.