

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

1-30-13

Christianity's Nuts & Bolts!

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Pray for a High Schooler going to camp (hand out names of youths & *leaders*, in italics)
- B. Slide#3 FPU (Steve & Christine Cotten): Dave Ramsey's financial Peace class is starting up Sun Feb 17th. (goes 9 weeks) 11:15am, during 3rd service. Cost is \$100 for materials.
 - 1. Beginning of Program: \$48K Non-Mortgage Debt per Family; \$18.5K Liquid Cash Available per Family; 3 Open Credit Card Accounts per Family.
 - 2. End of Program: \$7.8K Non-Mortgage Debt Paid Off per Family; \$3.2K Saved per Family; 2.3 Credit Cards Closed or Cut Up.
 - a) Sign up in info booth tonight.
- C. Prayer: Jesus you were the poor man who made many rich!

II. Slide#4 Intro:

- A. Title: *Christianity's Nuts & Bolts!*
 - 1. When we use the informal definition for **Nuts and bolts** - we are talking about the **essential** or **practical** details.
 - 2. Paul gives us **6 practical commands** for our Christianity.
 - a) **Six** in Greek is **Hex**, where we get hexagon/6 sided...like our nuts & bolts.
- B. Paul ends this letter with such a **peaceful & encouraging** note!
- C. "This **benediction** is the most complete of them all. It presents the persons of the Trinity in full form."¹ (benediction = utter a blessing, invoke God's favor)
- D. Note the opening of his closing! - **Finally brethren!**
 - 1. Remember, this was a letter to a **divided, unspiritual** church. Yet, there was **no distinction** between those who **attacked** him & those who **supported** him.

III. Slide#5 NUTS & BOLTS! (11-13)

- A. Paul sums up this letter with **6 Practical Commands**:
- B. Slide#6 [1] Farewell - **χαίρω** or *Good-bye*. But the root term is "*be joyful*".
- C. (Swindoll) In other words **laugh more**. Let laughter spill from your life, filling the walls of your home & your workplace. **Solomon said...**
 - 1. **A merry heart** does good, like medicine, **But a broken spirit dries the bones**. Prov.17:22
 - 2. **Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up**. Prov.12:25
 - 3. **A glad heart** makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit. Prov.15:13

¹ A.T.Robertson, Word Pictures in the N.T., Vol.4, pg.271

4. For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the **happy heart**, life is a continual feast.
Prov.15:15
- D. Our 1st soul search: Am I living the joy filled life?
- E. Slide#7 [2] Become Complete - καταρτίζω. *Aim for perfection*(NIV). Also means *Restoration*.
1. It has in mind supplying what is missing to bring about full usefulness.
 - a) It's used for *mending a torn net* (Mk1:19 w/Ja&Jn). *Setting a broken bone. Equipping an army w/supplies. Patching up* anything that has been injured or damaged.
 - b) *Go onward to perfection* - there is **no standing still** in the Christian life.
 - (1) *If you're not **advancing** you're **slipping back!***
 - c) RSV translates it "*Mend your ways*".
 2. See, after you *make things right* on the **human** level, you'll enjoy fellowship on the **divine level** (LKGNT)
 - a) Have you **mended your ways** after being confronted by truth from 2 Cor.?
 - b) Have you been **restored**?
 - c) What **difference** have these studies made in your life?
 - (1) Remember, as one said, "It's not how many books of the bible we get *through*, but how many books *get through us!*"
- F. Our 2nd soul search: Am I mending my ways?
- G. Slide#8 [3] Be of good comfort - παρακαλέω. *To come along side*. It can also be a command...to *Encourage, cheer, exhort, or console one another*.
1. If *exhortation* - *It takes a **big man** to listen to **hard advice***.
 - a) **Stop talking** & **start listening** to the voice of the *wise*, to the voice of **Jesus Christ**.
 2. We can be of good **comfort** in following Paul's advice, in getting our **lives in order**.
- H. Our 3rd soul search: Do I consider my spiritual life to be **in order**? What's out of order?
- I. Slide#9 [4] Be of one mind - *Like minded. Harmonious in thought & aim. Agree w/l another*.
1. He's **not asking** for uniformity in **dress** or **appearance** or **actions**.
He asking all of us to have the **same focus**.
 2. When we're like-minded toward **Christ**, we are like-minded toward **others**, **unselfish** & **open** & **supportive**. Which is the secret of close relationships.
- J. Our 4th soul search: Do I have a common purpose with my **church**? With my **small group**?
With **others** I serve with?
- K. Slide#10 [5] Live in peace - *Be peaceable*. Paul's goal, *stay together, peacefully*.

1. *Men must love each other before their love for God has any reality.*
 2. Who wants to be in an organization whose members *can't get along*?
 3. Do I live in peace? Do I calm the waters, *or* tend to stir thing up?
- L. As they lived together in *peace & harmony* they'd receive this **2-fold** promise:
1. We can count on His *divine presence* - **the God** of love and peace will be with you.
 2. We can also count on *earthly companionship*....All the saints greet you (13).
- M. Our 5th soul search: Do I live in His peace *or* just visit it once in a while? Would my friends say I live in peace?
- N. **Slide#11 [6]** Greet one another w/a holy kiss - [maybe today *a holy hug*, or *a holy fist bump*, or my favorite...*the triple shoulder pat*] [**double**/u just wanna be done - **quatro**/its gettin a lil weird now] :)
1. He's telling them to *be affectionate with one another*.
 2. **Not impure or sensual**. As, the men sat with the men **&** women with the women.
- O. The early Christians were known for their *visible expressions of love*. **But** later it grew more formal.
1. **Slide#12** The church eventually came up with the Pax-Board *or* Peace Plate.
 - a) It was used in the *Middle Ages* to convey *the kiss of peace* to the faithful.
 - (1) They'd say, "*Pax tecum*" (Peace be w/you)
 - b) In 1250 *Archbishop Walter* in England introduced the **Pax-board** that had been kissed by the *clergy* **&** was then passed among the *congregation* to be kissed.
 - c) It was a **plaque** of *metal, ivory, or wood*, generally decorated with some pious carving and provided with a handle.
 - (1) **Where's the warmth in that?** - Greet one another w/a **holy board**???
- P. Our 6th soul search: Do I show *appropriate* affection to my brothers **&** sisters? *Inappropriate?* **Or, none at all?** (maybe a better word would be *warmth/or caring*)

IV. **Slide#13 THE TRINITY'S TRIPLE BLESSING! (14)**

- A. **The benediction** (utter a blessing) of the Trinity.
- B. **Slide#14a** The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ -
 1. This takes us back to **Bethlehem**, where He became poor for us.
- C. **Slide#14b** The **love** of God -
 1. This takes us back to **Calvary**, where God The Father's love gave us His Son.
- D. **Slide#14c** The **communion/Koinonia** of the Holy Spirit - [fellowship/participation which has the HS as its object]

1. This takes us back to **Pentecost**, where The Spirit baptized all believers into the body of Christ.

E. The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. **Slide#15a** The **grace** manifested by Christ.
2. When a person works an eight-hour day and receives a fair day's pay for his time, that is a **wage**. When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for his performance, that is a **prize**. When a person receives appropriate recognition for his long service or high achievements, that is an **award**. But when a person is not capable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award - yet receives such a gift anyway - that is a good picture of **God's unmerited favor**.

F. The **love** of God

1. **Slide#15b** The **love** expressed by the Father.
2. There is a natural, logical kind of loving that loves lovely things and lovely people.
 - a) That's logical. But there is another kind of loving that doesn't look for value in what it loves, but that **CREATES** value in what it loves. Like a small child's rag doll.

G. The **communion/fellowship** of the **Holy Spirit**

1. **Slide#15c** The **fellowship** created by the Holy Spirit.
 - a) This word *fellowship* originates in the **relationship** *the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit* **have with one another**.
2. Ps.55:14 *NLT* helps us define *fellowship*. **What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God.**
 - a) The root of *fellowship* means **Common** or **shared**.
 - b) It's a **common participation** in something either by **giving & receiving**.

H. **Slide#16** **Amen** - *So be it. I agree. Action!*