

# From the Shadowlands to the Full Light of Day

## *1 Corinthians 13:8-12*

### Part 5

#### INTRODUCTION

In the way a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, through process, so in the same way we become who God created us to be through process as we await for our Home to arrive with our King. We must be transformed and all that is not of God be removed from us.

#### *Romans 12:2*

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.<sup>1</sup>

A few weeks ago I touched on this in referring to the role and purpose of discipleship. Many have thought of discipleship, if they have thought of it at all, as simply something a good Christian is supposed to do, and has failed to understand its role in the broader scheme of Gospel purpose.

A few weeks ago, I used the illustration of taking a trip to France, say next spring, and the group going meeting on a weekly basis to learn French, plan tourists stops, and understand better how to adapt to the culture once we are there. That is exactly the role of discipleship except ultimately our destination is coming to us in the form of New Creation. So what does a discipleship of love look like and focus on? That is what I hope to accomplish this week is understanding discipleship in the greater scope of New Creation.

## *1 Corinthians 13:8-12*

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. **When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.**

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<sup>1</sup>[\*The Holy Bible: New International Version\*](#). (1984). (Ro 12:2). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

## I. The Maturity of Love (11)

### ***James 1:12***

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

### “I am” by G.K. Chesterton

“When a newspaper posed the question, ‘What’s Wrong with the World?’ the Catholic thinker G. K. Chesterton reputedly wrote a brief letter in response:

‘Dear Sirs:

I am.

Sincerely Yours,

G. K. Chesterton.’

That is the attitude of someone who has grasped the message of Jesus.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Oswald Chambers**

Spiritual maturity is not reached by the passing of the years, but by obedience to the will of God. Some people mature into an understanding of God’s will more quickly than others because they obey more readily; they more readily sacrifice the life of nature to the will of God.

### **John Stott**

Christians who neglect the Bible simply do not mature.

### **Phillip Yancey**

The proof of spiritual maturity is not how pure you are but awareness of your impurity. That very awareness opens the door to grace.

### **Henri Nouwen**

Spiritual maturity is not knowing what to do with your whole life, but just knowing what to do next.

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<sup>2</sup>—Timothy Keller, [\*The Prodigal God\*](#) (New York: Dutton, 2008), 46.

## II. The Clarity of Love (12a)

### N.T. Wright

“All our language about God’s future is a set of signposts pointing into a fog.” He added that while the truth the signposts point to may indeed be very true, we just don’t see it very well yet, and, by implication, even our best and most well thought out language just can’t speak of it very well yet. We have clues, to be sure, but we should tread lightly and give equally good thought, I would add, to what such language is for.

### The Last Battle...

*‘There was a real railway accident,’ said Aslan softly. ‘Your father and mother and all of you are – as you used to call it in the Shadowlands – dead. The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is over: this is the morning.’*

### Revelation 22:22-27

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

## III. The Identity in Love (12b)

### Dwight L. Moody

If we have got the true love of God shed abroad in our hearts, we will show it in our lives. We will not have to go up and down the earth proclaiming it. We will show it in everything we say or do.

### Revelation 2:17

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

### Got Questions

The best theory regarding the meaning of the white stone probably has to do with the ancient Roman custom of awarding white stones to the victors of athletic games. The winner of a contest was awarded a white stone with his name inscribed on it. This served as his “ticket” to a special awards banquet. According to this view, Jesus promises the overcomers entrance to the eternal victory celebration in heaven. The “new name” most likely refers to the Holy Spirit’s work of conforming believers to the holiness of Christ.

# CONCLUSION

## ***1 Corinthians 13:13***

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Now notice this verse says ‘now these three remain.’ In the present these three remain, but in the New World:

- Faith will end in sight.
- Hope will end in consummation of reality.
- Love is the greatest because it never changes because it is the very Being of God.

## ***Revelation 21:1-5***

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

## **C.S. Lewis from the Great Divorce**

“Hell is a state of mind - ye never said a truer word. And every state of mind, left to itself, every shutting up of the creature within the dungeon of its own mind - is, in the end, Hell. But Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself. All that is fully real is Heavenly. For all that can be shaken will be shaken and only the unshakeable remains.”

Truth and Love coexist because if you don't know the truth you can never know what love is. Truth is in the very nature of the essence of Love. This is why we should never speak truth without love and never try to love without truth.

## The Black Eye Peas

### "Where Is The Love?"

What's wrong with the world, mama  
People livin' like they ain't got no mamas  
I think the whole world's addicted to the drama  
Only attracted to the things that'll bring the trauma

Overseas, yeah, we tryin' to stop terrorism  
But we still got terrorists here livin'  
In the USA, the big CIA  
The Bloods and The Crips and the KKK

But if you only have love for your own race  
Then you only leave space to discriminate  
And to discriminate only generates hate  
And when you hate then you're bound to get irate, yeah

Madness is what you demonstrate  
And that's exactly how anger works and operates  
Man, you gotta have love, this'll set us straight  
Take control of your mind and meditate  
Let your soul gravitate to the love, y'all, y'all

People killin', people dyin'  
Children hurt and you hear them cryin'  
Can you practice what you preach?  
And would you turn the other cheek?

Father, Father, Father help us  
Send some guidance from above  
'Cause people got me, got me questionin'  
Where is the love (Love)

Where is the love (The love)  
Where is the love (The love)  
Where is the love, the love, the love

It just ain't the same, old ways have changed  
New days are strange, is the world insane?  
If love and peace is so strong  
Why are there pieces of love that don't belong?

Nations droppin' bombs  
Chemical gasses fillin' lungs of little ones  
With ongoin' sufferin' as the youth die young  
So ask yourself is the lovin' really gone

So I could ask myself really what is goin' wrong  
In this world that we livin' in people keep on givin' in  
Makin' wrong decisions, only visions of them dividends  
Not respectin' each other, deny thy brother  
A war is goin' on but the reason's undercover

**The truth is kept secret, and swept under the rug**  
**If you never know truth then you never know love**  
Where's the love, y'all, come on (I don't know)  
Where's the truth, y'all, come on (I don't know)  
Where's the love, y'all

People killin', people dyin'  
Children hurt and you hear them cryin'  
Can you practice what you preach?  
Or would you turn the other cheek?

Father, Father, Father help us  
Send some guidance from above  
'Cause people got me, got me questionin'  
Where is the love (Love)