

Progressive Christians

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Christians cannot stand still. They must make progress.

I. Grow Upwardly by Faith

"And now abideth faith (I Cor. 13:13).

- A. Some Christians fail to make spiritual progress. They continue to live in the lowlands of doubts and fears.
- B. To please God we must "be no more children, tossed to and fro" (Eph. 4:14).
- C. We must become established in the faith and "grow up into him in all things" (Eph. 4:15).
- D. Spiritual progress and maturity come through prayer, study of God's Word, and doing those things that are pleasing to God (Heb. 11:6).

II. Glow Inwardly with Hope

"And now abideth hope (I Cor. 13:13).

- A. Millions of people are without hope in Christ. The rise in the suicide rate bears this out.
- B. Christians glow inwardly with hope. "... God... hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace (II Thess. 2:16).
- C. The hope that Christians have extends also to the life which is to come.
- D. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

III. Flow Outwardly with Charity

'And now abideth... charity (I Cor. 13:13).

- A. Many Christians profess to love God but fail to love their fellowmen as they should.
- B. We cannot truly love God unless we love others. "... he that loveth not his brother... how can he love God.. "(I John 4:20).
- C. Christians must flow outwardly with love. They should give a smile, a kind word, do a good deed, and witness to the lost as opportunity affords.
- D. Let us be progressive Christians and flow outwardly with love. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity ... but the greatest of these is charity " (I Cor. 13:13).