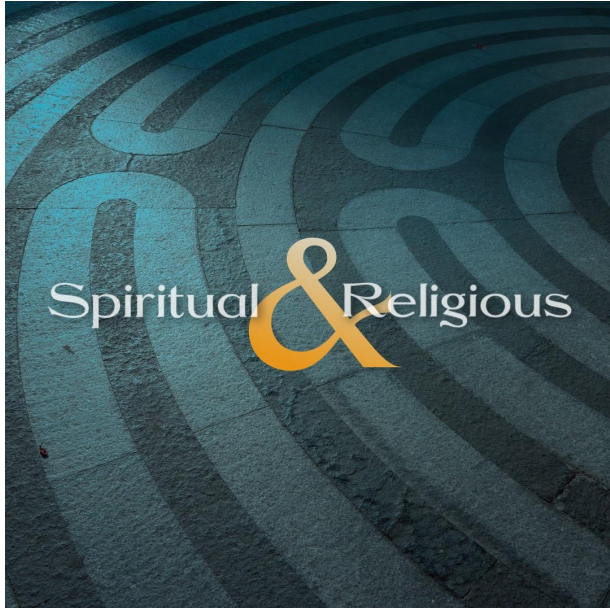


SPIRITUAL & RELIGIOUS: OPEN ENDED

September 25, 2022

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



Ephesians 3:16-4:6

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. What do you think it means for love to “surpass knowledge”?
3. Why do you think patience is so crucial to love? What helps you be patient? What zaps your patience?
4. Most of the virtues listed in this letter would be found in other Greco-Roman lists of ethics. In other words, they are virtues shared by many of the thinkers of that day. Except for humility.
 - a. What is humility?
 - b. Why might people **not** include humility among a list of virtues?
 - c. Why do you think humility is included in this letter and other places in the New Testament?
5. Is there someone from your life who you consider an example of humility? How do they speak or act or live this virtue?
6. In a world where people are increasingly disconnected from “organized religion” because it appears closed and rigid, how does this passage of scripture invite Christ’s church to be more “open”?