

What is our identity ??

The enemy is trying to give us a different identity, children of the world

It means
not only justification and forgiveness of sins; it
means also—and even more so—the renewing
and restoration of God's image in us, the lifting
up of fallen humanity through the Trinity into the
very life of God. Christ forgives us and frees us
from sin and death that we may proceed to fulfill
our potential, which is to become like God

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us." 1 John 4



A lot of us are walking around with an identity crisis
 Who are you
 Not who parents, friends, or even your thoughts think

We are a masterpiece because you are unique

We are his workmanship (poema)
 We are God was writing a poem when he created us
 Includes everything about us – our image, our emotions, our skills
 Some of the things we see as mistakes or we wish we could get rid of are the things
 that God chose to make us unique
 Can you trust that the same God who hung the stars in the sky and opened the eyes
 of the blind and formed the universe formed you

Think of the mess of making a cake
 We need to trust that even when there's ingredients everywhere, there is a cake
 being made

The hardest thing is to accept the flaws in ourselves

It will always be easier to see the good that you lack than the good that you have

There is a difference between an ugly painting and a masterpiece with dirt

In church is where Jesus is and where Jesus is there is fixing. If this statue can be fixed by humans can God fix you

I did not come for the righteous, I came for the sinner

I came for the broken, for the sick

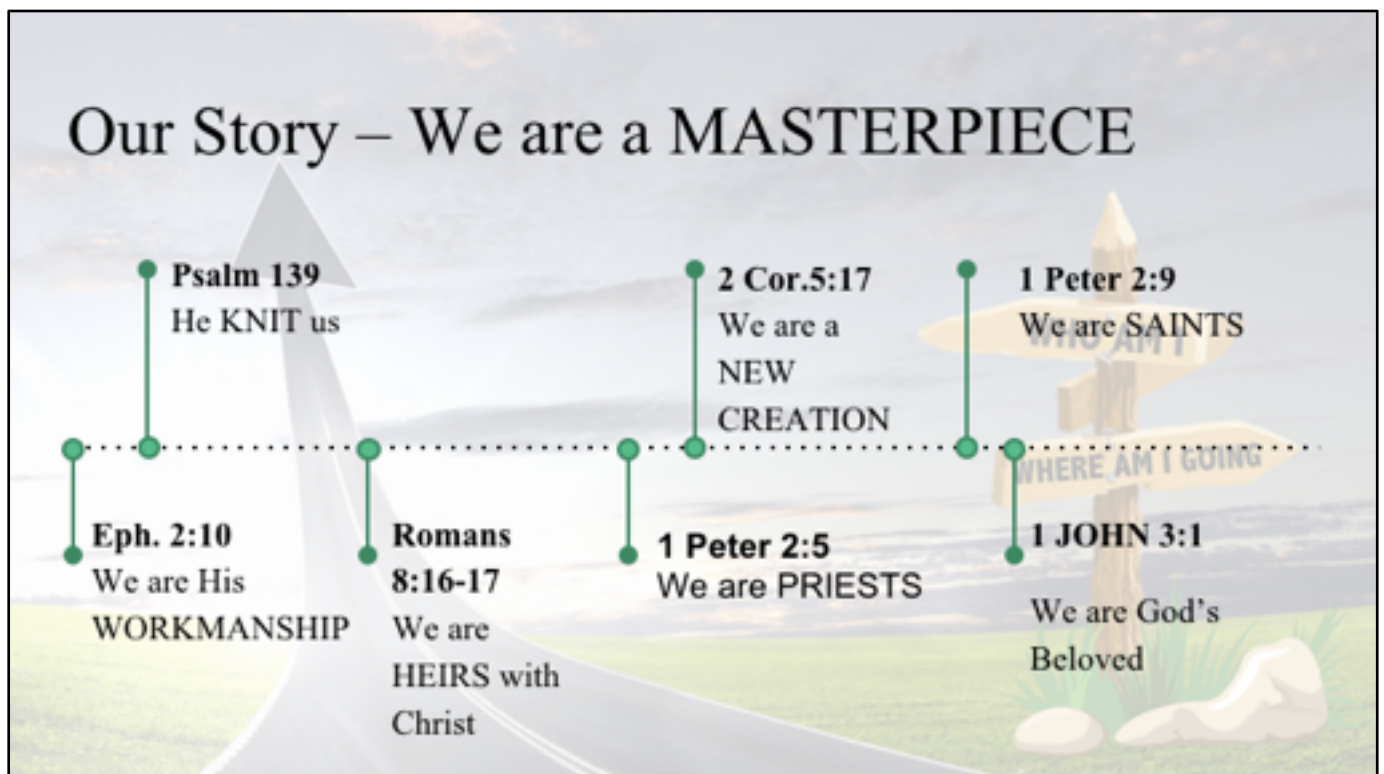
Your identity is that you are a masterpiece

Your identity defines your purpose

Your purpose is how you make your decision, spend your time, money, emotion and effort – where you invest your love you invest your life



Benjamin Kyle - His story is a lot of our stories



There is a war over who God creates you to be and devil distorts it

We change behaviour by not addressing core belief of who we believe we are

Promiscuous – you shouldn't do that or show her what her value is

Every behaviour comes from a belief

Proper belief will lead to proper behaviour in life

We are his workmanship
Devil says you are insignificant

He knit us
Devil says you're not wanted

We are new creation
You can't change

We are heirs
God has nothing to give you

We are Saints

We cant be good enough

Being a saint is not about sinning but what we do after
Holiness is not what god wants from us but what he wants for us
We are not saints by nature not sinners – HIS IMAGE

WE ARE PRIESTS – purpose + representative
You are sinner

God's beloved
Unloved, unaccepted and unforgiven

None of this is based on our performance
I will never be good enough but that's not why he loves us
None of this is because of who we are but who he is - our identity is based on what
cant change
We have by grace what he has by nature because were adopted
There's no such thing as I don't love god enough – you don't realise how much he
loves you

The problem is we don't know who we are, that's why our behaviour is same as the
rest of the world
Its easy for me to tell you these things but your experience will speak louder

“By the grace of God I am what I am”

1 COR. 15:10



Can you **accept**?

Can you accept that even your weakness is part of God's masterpiece?



Can you **trust**?

What if you never find out why you have his flaw, can you still trust God?



Can you **stop** comparing?

Can you stop looking around and look up because you are unique?



Can you **believe**?

Is a masterpiece every truly ruined? Is it ever not a masterpiece anymore?

“I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God's thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest and most precious thing in all thinking.”

— [George MacDonald](#)

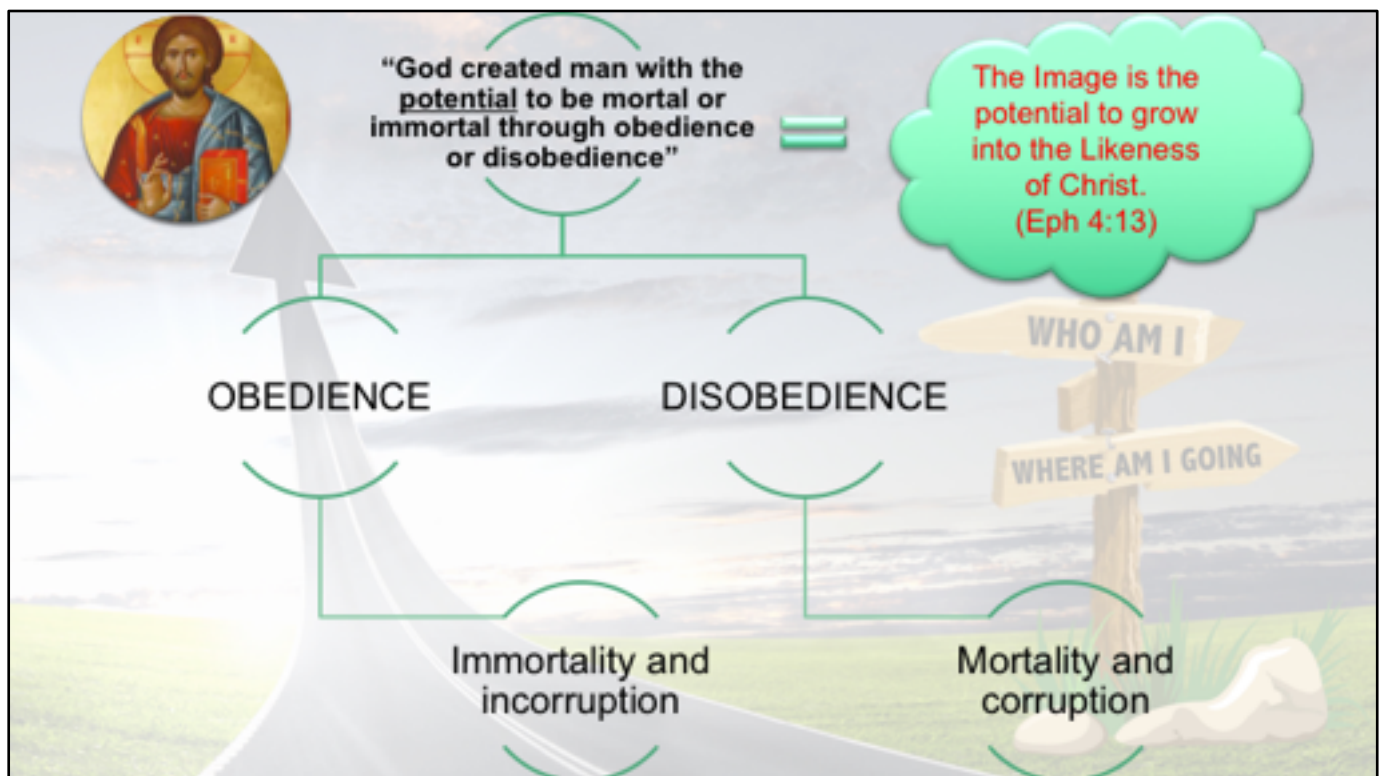
Studies

God sees our shortcomings and weaknesses. But He sees beyond these. He sees what we can become through His Son. He sees our potential to become all that He originally created us to be.

“We are not yet human beings; we are human becomings,”

“To all who received him. . . He gave power to become children of God” (Jn. 1:12). The Apostle Peter once came upon a lame man begging for alms. He walked up to the crippled man and said, “Silver and gold I have none but in the name of the Lord I say to thee. Rise and walk!” That is the kind of

power Christ gives us—power to get up and walk out of a crippled past into a life of power, meaning, peace and joy; power to become better than we are; power to become new creatures in Christ Jesus; power to become gods by grace, partakers of divine nature, heirs of His kingdom.

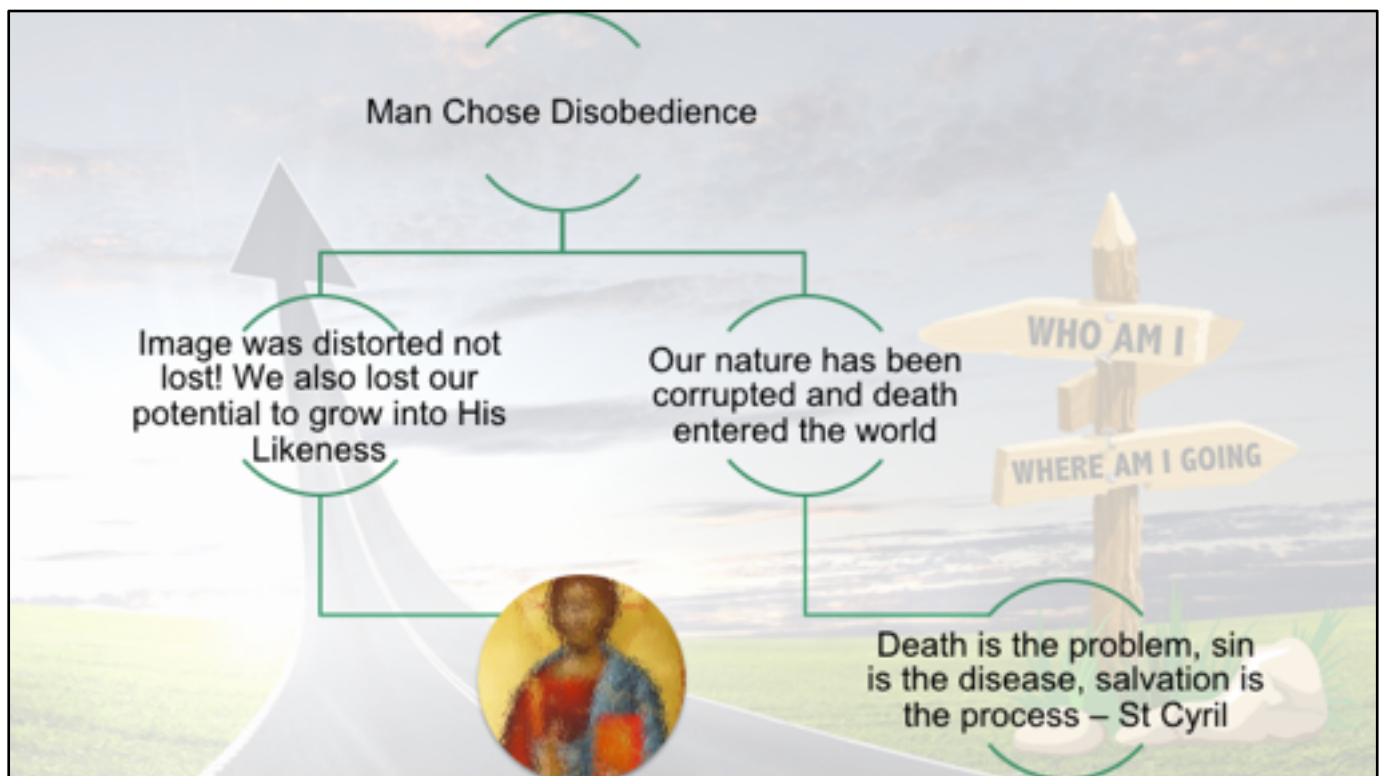


We are iconographers, and each and every one of us has a grand icon to construct. The image of God in us is the God-given capacity of love. Archbishop Demetrius quotes: “We should distinguish ourselves from the rest of Christ’s kingdom not simply because we bear the name ‘orthodox.’ We should be distinguished above all by the Christ-like manner of our life... by the abundance of love as well as by our conscientious devotion to truth”.

To actualise the image of God in us we need to be like icon-restorers who do not hack away at the damaged part of the icon, but instead very gently clean away all the spots and disfigurement with small, delicate brushes until the original image is restored. We need to require the same ascetic effort to restore the damaged image of God in us.

Something that prevents us in achieving our mission is Iconoclasm: where we desecrate and abolish the living icons inside us. Some examples of this are:
When we ignore and neglect the poor, the sick, the abandoned in our midst, then we are allowing the icons to be marginalised.
When we refuse to speak to or forgive our brother, we are defaming the image of God in us.

We are all made in God’s image. But to be in His likeness is only granted to those who deny their own will to follow God’s will.



Jesus' entire ministry is to heal and restore the distorted image BACK TO WHAT IT WAS MADE TO BE. His name means God saves or He heals

LOVE TURNED TO LOST
SHARING TURNED TO GREED

All these things, friends, partying, alcohol, they are distorted image of the joy

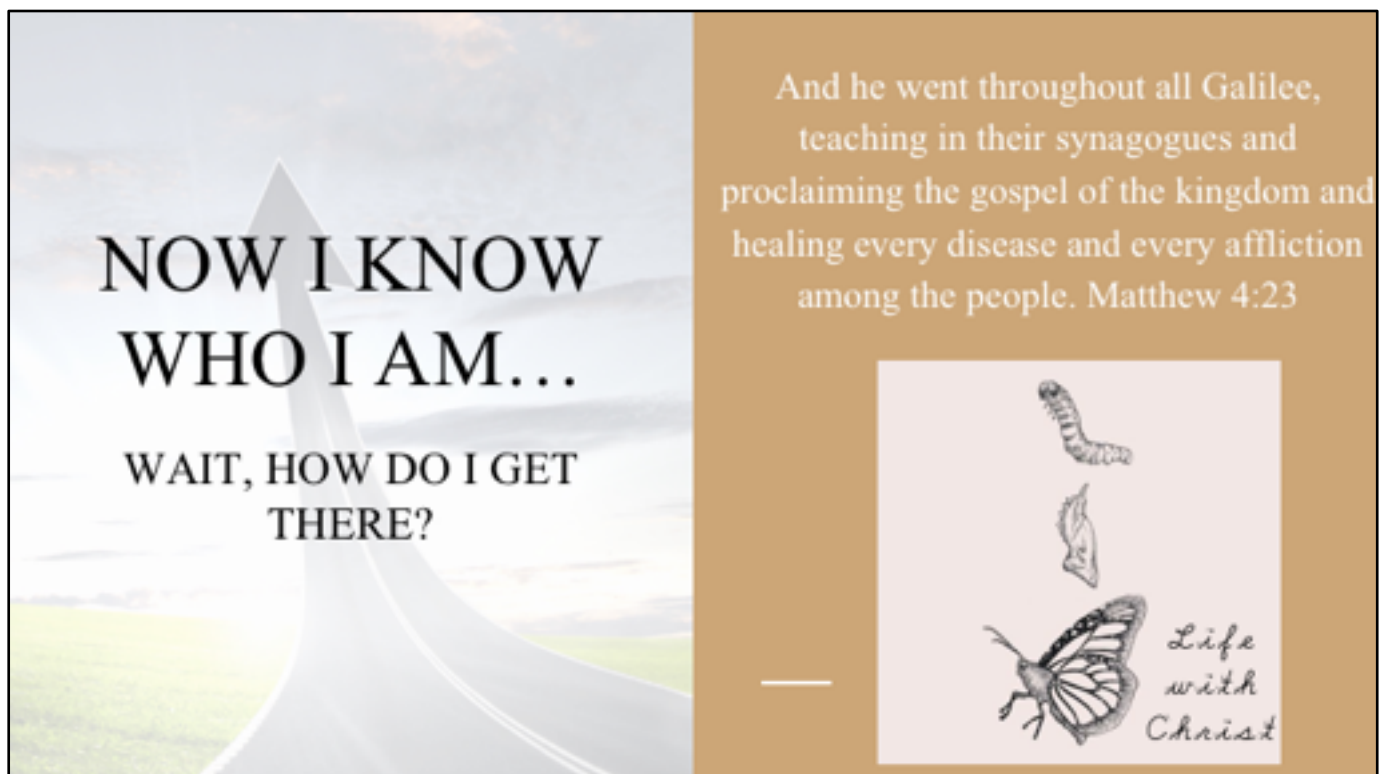
WASH AWAY ALL MY INIQUITIES which implied that the appearance is dirty but the identity is cleaned

We are masterpieces forever

The first Adam, created in the image of God, damaged that image through sin. This is why Christ came into the world as the New Adam to restore man to his original position before the Fall. Christ did this—and more! He not only restored man to the position of Adam before the Fall, He offered us also the possibility by grace to become that which Adam could have become if he had remained faithful to God. This is the privilege He now offers us through baptism: that of becoming “partakers of divine nature.”

It is our task then to become what we are as
the image and likeness of God: to share more
fully in the life of God.

The caterpillar, a butterfly. Caterpillars don't have to beg God to become butterfly



HOW DO I BECOME AND GROW INTO THE MASTERPIECE?

Jesus healing had 2 things

Jesus in crowd calls us one by one

And when they came they were confessing their sins

Confession is mystery we cant explain, we cant explain how we are healed and fixed on the inside

Confession connects me to the saving act of Christ on the cross

**“Whoever loses his life for My sake
will find it.”** LUKE 9:24

SPEECH

- Music

SIGHT

- Instagram
- Magazines
- Movies

MIND

- Fantasy
- Judgement
- Trying to fit in

**The one thing that holds us back from
becoming what God created us to be is sin.
That is why the church calls on us
constantly to repent**

Do you believe you can be different??

You may be down but you don't need to stay down

The path to salvation is finished “by whose stripes we were healed” when Jesus said it is finished

It is time for us to stop making our selves white, clean and super gluing ourselves back together.

We need to come to the cross, confessing our sins and saying I believe and I repent because I know you made me to be a masterpiece

Will power is not enough – God gives us authority but we need to make space for Him
We are more than conqueror
We need to exercise authority
Fight smarter not harder

Our Cocoon

- Baptism & Chrismation - Tomb with Jesus
- Communion – Last Supper with Jesus
- Confession – Cross with Jesus
- Invisible but REAL



BAPTISM

The greatest day of your life is the day you were baptised

Orthodox theology, does more than set us free from the bondage of original sin, it clothes us with Christ and makes us partakers of His divine nature

Through baptism we cast off the “old man” (Eph. 4:22) and put on the “new man” —but only potentially. The “new man” needs to be actualized in us through a process of continual growth in Christ which takes place in the Church—the Body of Christ—through prayer, repentance and by the grace of the Holy Spirit imparted through the sacraments. This is a long and difficult process in which we rise and fall over and over again until, at last by God’s grace, we rise more than we fall.

The journey to theosis begins with Holy Baptism.

Baptism by which we are clothed with Christ;

2. Chrismation by which the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us, vivifying the new life we received in Baptism;

3. The Eucharist through which we receive the deifying Presence of Christ within us;

4. Prayer which completes our union with God and makes us one spirit.

Theosis keeps producing

within us an increased sensitivity to sin which leads to a continual attitude of repentance.

St. John of the Ladder says that repentance is a renewal of our baptism, a new birth, a new resurrection, a new creation. He goes on to say that repentance is “a turning point from that which is not our nature, to that which is our nature, and a turning from the devil to God through spiritual struggle and pain.”

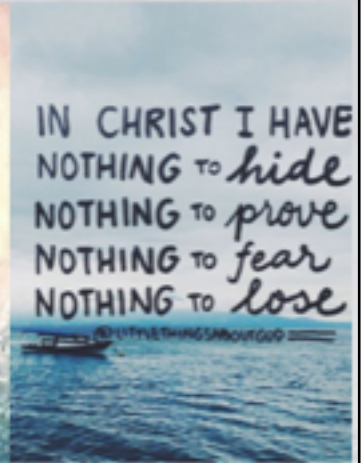
Ware said, “The great point of repentance is to see not what I have failed to be, but by the grace of Christ what I can become.”

We must open ourselves up to theosis and strive to appropriate it (Phil. 2:12) through constant prayer, love and asceticism.

cooperation - The aim of

asceticism or struggle is not to gain merit, or payment or reward from God. It represents only the struggle that is involved in renouncing our sinful will in order to yield ourselves totally to God in self-surrender as we journey toward theosis.

“



False Identity Destination
Insecurity, Fear, Low Self
Esteem, Anxiety

Identity in Christ Destination
Joy, Freedom, Love,
Peace, Wholeness

*Help me Lord by Your grace, to keep
actualising Your image through faith, love
and obedience as I go through life, so that I
may have You living in me as I live in
You. Amen.*



If you really believe that you are a child of the king and you are no more property of the devil
But that you are a new creation

Wont that have an impact on your life
How you talk to your parents and siblings
How you deal with people when they hurt you
How you look at those that other think are weird or uncool
The music and movies you watch, what you do for fun

“Become what
you already are” St.
Gregory of Sinai
Grow in the life of
Christ which you have
received in baptism that
you may become a true
son or daughter of the
heavenly Father.”

I am a tiny foxtato

And I believe in you



YOU CAN DO THE THING

We ask god what do you want me to do

But we never ask god what you want me to be

Who god asks you to be – gives you the strength and grace to do something

St mary – mother of god

Abraham – father to many nations

Disciples – fishers of men

The devil always labels us

You are lazy

You are not spiritual

You are not acceptable before the lord

We need to ask God how he sees us, we need to read the word of God to know who we are

In the orthodox church we start at baptism

We are given the holy spirit and we start as gods children

We start of with our identity

If we don't start off with our identity in Christ we wont know where we are going

This is the time to ask

The bible is the first place to start

God doesn't value you according to what you do but who you are

You have been given that authority

You have been anointed with mayroon

Who am I?

"I am one who is loved by God the Father who created me out of nothing. I am one who is loved and redeemed by God the Son, my Precious Jesus, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I am one who is loved and indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, God's power and presence within me."

Where am I going?

If God is love, and I am loved by God and placed here to love.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

God is love and can be reached only through love. It is through the practice of love that we achieve the purpose for which we were created: salvation and theosis. And love, the highest of all gifts, is not something that we achieve on our own. It is a gift that the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts (Rom. 5:5). Other than love nothing is more divine. It is through the practice of love, above all, that we achieve theosis. We become like that which we love. If we love God with all of our "mind, heart, strength and soul" how can we not become participants in the nature of God which is love!