

## The Life of God in the Soul of Man – Lesson 6

### Henry Scougal

From \_\_\_\_\_ (the root of the divine life) springs forth love to God (the first of the branches of the divine life). Off this branch grows a second branch called love for \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 22:34-40 & John 14:15 & 15:12).

#### The Excellency of Charity (love for thy neighbor)

*“The next branch of the divine life is an universal charity and love. The excellency of this grace will be easily acknowledged. For what can be more noble and generous than a heart enlarged to embrace the whole world, whose wishes and designs are levelled at the good and welfare of the universe, which considereth every man’s interests as its own?”*

A true and perfect love for one’s neighbor that springs forth from a love of God will \_\_\_\_\_ lead to sin. This kind of charity dispels all envy, slander, gossip, ingratitude, hatred, bitterness, malice, and all other sins that seek the injury and ruin of another.

*“He who loveth his neighbor as himself can never entertain any base or injurious thought or be wanting in expressions of bounty; he had rather suffer a thousand wrongs than be guilty of one, and never accounts himself happy but when someone or other hath benefited by him.”*

*“The malice or ingratitude of men is not able to resist his love, he overlooks their injuries, and pities their folly, and overcomes their evil with good, and never designs any other revenge against his most bitter and malicious enemies than to put all the obligations he can upon them, whether they will or not.”*

If all were to love their neighbor perfectly then the world would be at perfect \_\_\_\_\_ (such as it will be in heaven).

While not addressed by Scougal, it is worthy to note that this love for one’s neighbor does begin with those that the Lord, by decree and \_\_\_\_\_, has bound us together with in special ways. While we are bound to all humanity by way of creation, creationally we are bound to some people more closely through the ties of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 5:4 & 8, Eph. 5:25, 6:1- just to name a few). We are also uniquely bound to others through the work of \_\_\_\_\_ creation in Christ (Galatians 6:10).

Not only is love to neighbor an \_\_\_\_\_ virtue but it also brings with it much pleasure and happiness to the soul. Being free from malice, hatred, envy, and all other vices that sour our souls would of course lead then to peace, pleasure, and happiness reigning in the soul.

*“Certainly, next to love and enjoyment of God, that ardent charity and affection wherewith blessed souls do embrace one another is justly to be reckoned as the greatest felicity of those regions above, and did it universally prevail in the world, it would anticipate that blessedness and make us taste of the joys of heaven upon earth.”*