

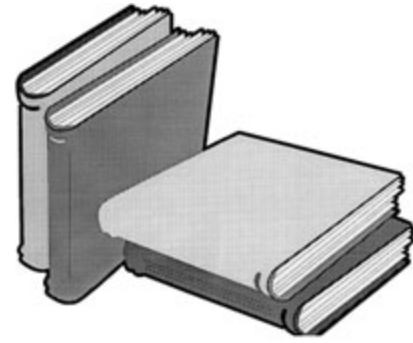
The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



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The Divine Life.

The root of the divine life is faith; the chief branches are love to God, charity to man, purity, and humility. For however these names are common ..., yet they carry such a mighty sense that the tongue of man or angel can pronounce nothing more weighty or excellent. ...

“The Love of God” is a delightful and affectionate sense of the divine perfections, which makes the soul resign and sacrifice itself wholly unto Him, and delighting in nothing so much as in fellowship and communion with Him, being ready to do or suffer anything for His sake or at His pleasure. ...

A soul thus possessed with divine love must be enlarged towards all mankind in a sincere and unbounded affection because of the relation they have to God, being His creatures. ... This is that “charity” I named as the second branch of religion. ...

By “purity,” I understand a due abstractedness from the body, and mastery over the inferior appetites, or such a temper and disposition of mind as makes a man despise and abstain from all pleasures and delights of sense or fancy which are sinful in themselves, or tend to extinguish or lessen our relish for more divine and intellectual pleasures. ...

“Humility” imports a deep sense of our own weakness, with a hearty and affection acknowledgment of our owing all that we are to the divine bounty. This is always accompanied with a profound submission to the will of God, and great deadness towards the glory of the world and the applause of men. ...

Henry Scougal, 1650-1678, a Scottish Episcopalian,
The Life of God in the Soul of Man, 1667,
as reprinted by Soli Deo Gloria 2002, p. 12-13.