

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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12/6/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part 24

Outline:

The Gospel

A gospel without integrity to the fullness of the Person of Jesus Christ is a false gospel. Any presentation of the true Gospel must unapologetically impose a relationship between Christ and an individual.

Life Is About Relationships

The Bible describes life through the lens of personal relationships. First and foremost, "Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6).

*** God's-Love-Virtue-Love diagram ***

McLaren's Expositions - 1Jn4:19

Very simple words! but they go down into the depths of God, lifting burdens off the heart of humanity, turning duty into delight, and changing the aspect of all things. He who knows that God loves him needs little more for blessedness; he who loves God back again offers more than all burnt offering and sacrifices.

McLaren's Expositions - 1Jn4:19

But it is to be observed that the correct reading of my text, as you will find in the Revised Version, omits 'Him' in the first clause, and simply says 'we love,' without specifying the object. That is to say, for the moment John's thought is fixed rather on the inward transformation effected, from self-regard to love--than on considering the object on which the love is expended.

McLaren's Expositions - 1Jn4:19

When the heart is melted, the streams flow wherever there is a channel. The river, as he goes on to show us, parts into two heads, and love to God and love to man are, in their essence and root-principle, one thing.

"every good deed"

What's the GREATEST of ALL good deeds? "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you" (John 15:12). The answer is "to love".

Filling of the Spirit

EVERYTHING the Spirit's going to motivate you to thin, say, or do is going to be consistent with love.

The Basics

- God gives us commands (the "umbrella" command is to love)
- God's Spirit convicts our conscience of right and wrong
- We have a free will to obey or disobey said conviction

Different Kinds of Commands

- Some commands are general, like "walk by the Spirit" or "love one another" <- these are lifestyle issues
- Some commands are more specific, like "don't fornicate" or "don't lie" <- these are more isolated

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Filling of the Spirit

When we obey, we are filled (controlled by the convicting ministry of the Spirit), when we don't, we aren't. However, filling is relative to each application of God's commands in our lives, which may overlap, time wise.

Filling of the Spirit

If you are saved then you are ALWAYS in God's plan, ALWAYS walking in the Light because the Light (the Lord God) is always with you. However, due to your own disobedience (sin), your experience may be "dimmed".

*** Command-To-Be-Filled diagram ***

A Bad Question

The long-standing question, "Am I filled?" is a bad question by itself. The better question to be asking yourselves is "Which of God's commands am I obeying and which am I not?"

The Right Perspective

To the degree that you are obeying the one command, you are filled; and likewise, to the degree you are disobeying another command, you are not filled. These instances overlap in life.

The Right Perspective

If your conception of the filling of the Spirit is perverted, even in the least bit, then your understanding of the fundamental doctrine of Sanctification will be proportionally perverted!

A Little Leaven Leavens the Whole Lump

A perverted Gospel demands a perverted sanctification. In other words, if a core doctrine is "off", the ripple effect is "felt" throughout the body of doctrines that build upon it.