

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

www.nccdighton.org

12/8/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part 25

Outline:

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).

1JN 4:19 [Message]

We, though, are going to love-love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

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

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".

Church Family

God ordained local assemblies and the spiritual gifts that make them function as a grace service to the saints. Commitment to family is a critical facet of spiritual growth. Satan attacks all families (not just household, but also church).

Satan HATES Families!

Some of you REALLY need to let that sink in. Don't just let it roll off of your tongue as some de facto, ubiquitous sentiment against Satan. He ACTIVELY hates YOUR families (household, church, etc.).

Satan HATES Your Household Family

- Media promotes anti-authority-orientation
- Schools normalize premarital and homosexual sex
- Pornography (even in so-called "suitable" TV/movies) destroys sexual intimacy between spouses
- Technology creates "islands" within a household
- "Distance" between spouses promotes infidelities
- Family traditions (eg: eating dinner at a table together) replaced by fast-food,

undisciplined structure, etc.

Satan HATES Your Church Family

- The world promotes anti-authority-orientation
- Church leadership utterly failing/leaving ministry to Satan's agents (eg: "coexist", women pastors/evangelists, feminism, homosexual marriage, spiritualism, etc.)
- Churches have become places of big business (selling the Word, massive "love offerings", competitive atmospheres, etc.)
- Rogue Christianity has plundered local assemblies (forsaking assembling, lack of financial support, etc.)

1Pe 3:8-12 [Message]

Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless-that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing.

1Pe 3:8-12 [Message]

Whoever wants to embrace life and see the day fill up with good, here's what you do: say nothing evil or hurtful; snub evil and cultivate good; run after peace for all you're worth.

1Pe 3:8-12 [Message]

God looks on all this with approval, listening and responding well to what he's asked; but he turns his back on those who do evil things.

Satan HATES Families!

Some of you REALLY need to let that sink in. Don't just let it roll off of your tongue as some de facto, ubiquitous sentiment against Satan. He ACTIVELY hates YOUR families (household, church, etc.).

"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 think, say, or do is going to be consistent with love.

The Word and the Spirit

It's upon these two fundamental, active gifts that our entire spiritual life is animated (Heb 4:12; Jn 14:16-26).

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

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, timewise.