

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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12/22/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 30

Christmas and 2Co 9:6

If you want the most out of Christmastime, you've got to give the most. Give Christ first, His Gospel. Give others your heart. Give all your love. Those are the greatest gifts.

Jonathan Edwards on Spiritual Light

This spiritual light is not the suggesting of any new truths or propositions not contained in the word of God. This suggesting of new truths or doctrines to the mind, independent of any antecedent revelation of those propositions, either in word or writing, is inspiration; such as the prophets and apostles had, and such as some enthusiasts pretend to.

Jonathan Edwards on Spiritual Light

But this spiritual light that I am speaking of, is quite a different thing than inspiration. It reveals no new doctrine, it suggests no new proposition to the mind, it teaches no new thing of God, or Christ, or another world, not taught in the Bible, but only gives a due apprehension of those things that are taught in the word of God.

Jonathan Edwards on Spiritual Light

Thus there is a difference between having an opinion, that God is holy and gracious, and having a sense of the loveliness and beauty of that holiness and grace. There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet, and having a sense of its sweetness. A man may have the former that knows not how honey tastes; but a man cannot have the latter unless he has an idea of the taste of honey in his mind.

Jonathan Edwards on Spiritual Light

So there is a difference between believing that a person is beautiful, and having a sense of his beauty. The former may be obtained by hearsay, but the latter only by seeing the countenance. When the heart is sensible of the beauty and amiableness of a thing, it necessarily feels pleasure in the apprehension.

Jonathan Edwards on Spiritual Light

It is implied in a person's being heartily sensible of the loveliness of a thing, that the idea of it is pleasant to his soul; which is a far different thing from having a rational opinion that it is excellent.

Christmas and 2Co 9:6

If you want the most out of Christmastime, you've got to give the most. Give Christ first, His Gospel. Give others your heart. Give all your love. Those are the

greatest gifts.

Grace

You already possess everything you could possibly need to give this Christmas!

Christmas Giving

Love is the least expensive, most valuable gift ever given. The well never runs dry, the account is never over-drafted, the givers are never broke.

It's Good to Be Alive

Aren't you glad to be alive? Better yet, aren't you glad to be alive "in Christ" this Christmas? Amen! - share the joy, share your life, your heart, your love this season!

Falling Prey to Sin

There are few prey easier to "capture" (aichmalotizo) than "weak women" (gunaikarion) (2Ti 3:6).

Responsibility for Self

A fundamental tenet of Biblical healing and freedom is that a person takes responsibility for themselves (e.g.: their decisions).

Self-Victimization (Wikipedia)

Self-victimization (or victim playing) is the fabrication of victimhood for a variety of reasons such to justify abuse of others, to manipulate others, a coping strategy or attention seeking.

"Self-Victimization – What It Looks Like" (outofthefog.net)

- A spouse, challenged over emptying the joint account, complains the other partner is neglecting their needs.
- A husband hits his wife and then, when confronted with his actions, complains that he is treated worse in other ways.
- A mother beats or neglects her children and diverts challenges about it by only discussing her own medical complaints.

"Self-Victimization – What It Looks Like" (outofthefog.net)

- A spouse is having an affair and claims the other partner drove them to it.
- A person spreads false accusations about physical or sexual abuse in the home.
- A thief caught red-handed tells stories about how they were abused as a child.

"Self-Victimization – What It Looks Like" (outofthefog.net)

- A narcissistic boss mistreats a subordinate and then claims the subordinate's behavior was hurting the company as justification.
- A teenager starts a fight with a sibling then complains about the resulting bruises.
- A young girl overdoses and then says she did it because nobody listens to her.

Self-Victims Remain "Young"

The problem with being from the "weak women" camp is that a person NEVER

GROWS UP!!! It's often why those fed up with such antics can be heard exclaiming, "Grow up!!!"

Skirting Self-Responsibility

Don't you realize that Satan encourages self-victimization because it keeps you from glorifying God in time???

Eph 4:11-16 [Message]

He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church,

Eph 4:11-16 [Message]

...until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

Eph 4:11-16 [Message]

No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything.

Eph 4:11-16 [Message]

We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

Sanctification Depends Upon Confession

Confession is being honest with God, in the privacy of your own soul...not that He needs to be informed; rather, that YOU need to face the facts about yourself.

The Spirit and Confession

Obedience is a function of being filled (e.g.: love, walk, do, forgive, confess, etc.); therefore, obeying the command to confess is a function of being filled. It is the Spirit that convicts a person of right and wrong, leading a person to confession.

The Spirit and Confession

It seems some people have gotten that backwards, saying something religious like 'confession provides access to the Spirit'. That's human works (man proposes he's the Spirit's puppeteer).

Sanctification Depends Upon Confession

Confession is being honest with God, in the privacy of your own soul...not that He needs to be informed; rather, that YOU need to face the facts about yourself.

Skirting Self-Responsibility

Few things seem to debilitate the healing power of the Word more than self-victimization. Sanctification is stunted for as long as a person continues to blame others for their own sins.

Sanctification After Salvation

The issue isn't forgiveness (ala Ro 8:1-2), the issue is discipline (Pr 3:11-14).

Rom 8:1-2 [Amplified]

Therefore there is now no condemnation [no guilty verdict, no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus [who believe in Him as personal Lord and Savior]. For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Pr 3:11-12 [Amplified]

My son, do not reject or take lightly the discipline of the Lord [learn from your mistakes and the testing that comes from His correction through discipline]; nor despise His rebuke, for those whom the Lord loves He corrects, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

Sanctification After Salvation

The issue isn't forgiveness (ala Ro 8:1-2), the issue is discipline (Pr 3:11-14).

The Value of Discipline

There's a certain "understanding" that exists on the other side of discipline, something that discipline uniquely teaches us.

Pr 3:13-14 [Amplified]

Happy [blessed, considered fortunate, to be admired] is the man who finds [skillful and godly] wisdom, and the man who gains understanding and insight [learning from God's word and life's experiences], for wisdom's profit is better than the profit of silver, and her gain is better than fine gold.

2Ti 3:6-7

Paul is pointing out two breeches of the "family":

- It's a sin to infiltrate a family by taking advantage of its weaknesses (from without)
- It's a sin to continue to make choices that make a family weak (from within)