

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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12/27/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 31

The “Gift of Giving”

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Act 20:35). For mature believers, the transcendent gifts are given by God after the initial transaction. However, for the immature and the unbelievers, the first transaction closes all aspects of perceived blessing.

Types of Wisdom

Just because a person consults the Bible for moral guidance doesn't mean they understand the SPIRITUAL significance of it. There are many unbelievers who quote the Bible as a moral compass (in part) but have no interest in Jesus as Lord or Savior.

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.

Responsibility for Self

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

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.

To be free, one must obey.

Obedience

OBEDIENCE is a HUGE part of sanctification. It begins at salvation with submission to the Lord and continues with increased orientation to God's ultimate will for His children (to be conformed to the image of His Son - **Ro 8:29**).

Sanctification

God's will is to sanctify us in order to bring glory to Himself. First, He saves us by grace (**Eph 2:8-9**), then He sanctifies us by grace (**Col 3:10**). Sanctification implies obedience. Obedience begins with confession (right or wrong).

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).

The Spirit and Confession

Confession is a divine good thing. If a believer is supposedly "without" the Spirit's ministry, then what supernatural power do they have available to them to perform the divine good work of confession?

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)

After Salvation, We Are New Family

We are family. Our family will endure. We are going to spend eternity together. Why not embrace our heavenly family now, even more so than our earthly ones? And let's pray they are one and the same! (**1Jn 3:1-2**)

Jn 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God LOVES Families!

For every wound received, there's an ointment in the Word of God, bar none. For every one given, there is forgiveness, bar none. Be encouraged, God loves YOU!

Commands

Commands ought to be considered as the expressed will of God. In obedience, we will follow His commands, revealing His love in us, but His commands aren't ever meant to spawn religion. His Spirit convicts us to obey (eg: to love).

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!

*** 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.

Acts 5:3

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled [pleroo] your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?"

The Right Perspective

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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.

Synthesizing...

- The Gospel and Salvation
- Positional Sanctification
- The Holy Spirit's Ministry (at/after salvation, working with the Word)
- Experiential/Progressive Sanctification

"He learned obedience"

Jesus was sanctified the same way every human is, to the will and for the glory of God. Obedience is something that God teaches us. He also tests it to confirm it. True obedience implies faith, which must be tested for its consummation.