

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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10/18/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part
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Outline:

MacArthur

Love originated in God, was manifested in His Son, and demonstrated in His people.

God's Love vs. Man's

The unregenerate man is inherently selfish (Ro 8:7). The regenerate man, abiding in God's love, expresses his love towards others in myriad Spirit-guided ways (1Jn 4).

MacDonald on 1Jn 4:12

We are never intended to be terminals of God's blessings, but channels only. God's love is given to us, not that we might hoard it for ourselves, but that it might be poured out to us through others.

Abiding Confidence

A saved person WILL abide in Him (and the HS in him will convict him of this reality, if it truly exists - 1Jn 3:24), with the PROOF of such a reality (as opposed to a mere proclamation) being that a believer WILL produce that which is intrinsic to the HS (fruit - Gal 5:22-23)...and the greatest of these is love (1Co 13:13).

Balance Statement

"Faith-fruit" will be produced by every believer, guaranteed; however, only God knows if a person is saved or not. A healthy suspicion based on a lifestyle of bad fruit may serve as motivation, but never a just cause for passing judgment.

Mt 13:30

Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'

"allow both to grow together"

It's not a believer's job to discern who is saved and who isn't; we can certainly "see" their fruit, possibly be motivated if we suspect a false gospel, but only God knows who the tares are among us.

Salvation

Salvation for many people is a drawn out process (speaking from the man-ward side). While the judicial act of justification is a moment in time, man has a habit of exploiting God's patience in "counting the cost" of salvation (eg: denying self, following Christ).

You're Not Alone

Always remember that God uses a multitude of evangelists in this world, often on a single individual. Consider that even Jesus couldn't evangelize his own family immediately, nor His town! (Jn 7:5; Ac 1:14; Mk 6:1-4)

Jn 7:5

For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

Mk 6:4

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household."

Human Rationalism

Unbelievers take offense at supernatural phenomena because they cannot rationalize it. Believers are encouraged by the fact that they cannot rationalize it!

Patience Is a Virtue

Patience is especially useful in the process of evangelizing. Our job is to teach the Gospel accurately, including the challenging aspects of it that suggest a person "count the cost" of discipleship (e.g.: denying self, following Jesus) before accepting the invitation.

Patience

God is a big fan of patience, hence the very fruit of the Spirit in Gal 5:22 (... "love, peace, patience..."). Arguably the greatest challenge to our patience is in evangelism.

Patience Is Power

The pinnacle of true power is not manifest in raw force, rather it is shown through virtues such as patience. It takes more power to exercise patience than force one's hand. The long-lasting effects are also greater.

Patience

It's better to face off with resistance to the true Gospel than without resistance to an accommodating, less "offensive" gospel. This goes for children, too! There can be NO watering down the Gospel!