

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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10/22/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part  
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## Outline:

### **Jonathan Edwards**

*"Men are very apt to bring their principles to their practices, and not their practices to their principles, as they ought to do. They, in their practice, comply not with their consciences; but all their strife is to bring their consciences to comply with their practice.*

### **Jonathan Edwards**

*[The wicked's] practical judgment is inconsistent with their own reason.*

### **Jonathan Edwards**

*[The wicked's] lusts have a far greater hand in the judgments that they make of things, and by which they govern themselves, than their reason.*

### **Jonathan Edwards**

*[The wicked's] reason tells them, that it is well worth the while for every man to deny himself outward pleasure for the good of his soul. But their governing opinion or judgment is contrary, viz. that it is not best; and that pleasures, and the gratification of their lusts, are worth more than any benefit they would obtain by seeking their salvation.*

### **Forbidden Fruit - 10/2/15 blog**

*Human rationalism applied to scripture bears bad fruit. Human experience ought never interpret the Bible; rather, the Bible interprets human experience. The forbidden fruit may have changed form over the years, but the pattern for justifying eating it has remained the same. The flesh's affinity for its consumption is undeniable.*

### **Human Rationalism**

One of the hallmarks of human rationalism is that the world will actually listen to it. Believers must learn to avoid such conversations as they are fruitless. It's impossible to convict someone of sin if the supernatural is agreed upon as "inadmissible in court".

### **John Piper**

God created these [sexual] things to be received with thanksgiving by those who

believe" [1Ti 4:3]. By its very design it can only be for believers, because it is designed as an occasion for thanksgiving.

### **John Piper**

*But those who do not "know the truth" - the truth, namely, that God is the giver of all good gifts and worthy to be glorified and thanked - those who hold down this truth (Romans 1:18, 25) and do not trust in God cannot satisfy their sexual desires according to the design of God.*

### **John Piper**

*All their sexual behavior is sin because it does not spring from faith in God (Romans 14:23) and does not result in thanks to God.*

### **John Piper**

*Sexual pleasure belongs rightfully only to believers. All others are thieves and robbers. Don't ever let the world deceive you into thinking that we Christians are trying to borrow and purify a limited amount of the world's pleasure.*

### **John Piper**

*God created sexual pleasure for his subjects alone, and the world has rebelled against him and stolen his gifts and corrupted them and debased them and turned them into weapons of destruction and laughed at those who remain faithful to the King and use his gifts according to his Word.*

### **John Calvin on Sex**

*[S]trictly speaking, God has destined the world and all that is in it for his children alone; for this reason it is said that they shall inherit the earth [Mt 5:5]. In the beginning, Adam himself was given dominion over all things on condition that he remained obedient to God.*

### **John Calvin on Sex**

*Therefore, when he rose in rebellion against God, he deprived himself and his posterity of this right which was conferred upon him.*

### **John Calvin on Sex**

*So, it follows that we are restored to our original dignity only by the benefit we receive from Christ to whom all things are under subjection: and this we receive by faith. Therefore, whatever men without faith get hold of, they rob or steal from others.*

### **MacArthur on Sex**

*No sin that a person commits has more built-in pitfalls, problems, and destructiveness than sexual sin. It has broken more marriages, shattered more homes, caused more heartache and disease, and destroyed more lives than alcohol and drugs combined. It causes lying, stealing, cheating, and killing, as well as bitterness, hatred, slander, gossip, and unforgiveness.*

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### **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).

### **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).

### **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.