

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/7/16 - Guest Speaker: Evangelist Scott Grande -
Hindering God's Love Means Hindering Your
Sanctification - Part 2

What motivates faith?

The greater a person's love for God, the more "willingly humble" he will walk by faith.

Faith without Love means Nothing

Everyone has faith in something, but unless love binds that faith to serving others, it is worthless. 1Co 13

Why does Faith Move?

The reason faith moves in our lives is because of love. Paul was a doer, because love was his motivation. 2Cor 5:14-15

Paul's humility led to a forgiving attitude towards others. Because of that, he regularly got out of the way and rarely hindered God's love from flowing through him; at least from what we know in the scriptures.

Our Father's Desire

God, the One who sanctifies, desires that we allow His love to flow through us, unhindered and uninterrupted.

Let's be honest...

In what ways are you using your own methods in dealing with others, maybe something instilled in you since childhood, and in the process you're hindering God's love from flowing freely?

Freely-flowing Love

Love is grace in action. And what's our part in this? To let it flow through us freely, both by receiving it from Him, and passing it on to others. And it should all be one fluid motion.

Luke 6:32

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them."

Only when we get in the way, when we get selfish with God's grace (it's for me and my benefit alone), do we slow down the powerful flow of His love through us.

And we therefore slow down experiencing (and enjoying) our sanctification.

The faith of a child

"I trust you Lord, and I'm not going to question you anymore. That's how much I trust you."

The Power of God's Love

It's love that changes people, and it's lack of love that makes ourselves and others suffer needlessly.

Loving yourself...

Doesn't your life include caring for yourself, making your life easier when possible, and giving yourself the best of things, like good food and clothing, for example? Relief from pain, for example? If that's how you treat yourself, that's how you should treat your neighbors.

Phil 2:3-5

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...

Phil 2:1-5

If you honestly realize and admit you are NOTHING without Christ (and I mean NOTHING! Joh 15:5), then you are ready to move forward and enjoy this freedom, which comes from regarding others as a higher priority than yourself. But until you humble yourself, you will continue to suffer in your soul.

Loving your neighbor...

And who is your neighbor??

Loving your neighbor...

BE a neighbor, don't ask who your neighbor is. That's the wrong question.

BE a neighbor. Luk 10:36

Living the Spiritual Life

Living the spiritual life is an attitude, not a regiment. It's being "in Christ", in the moment, not just knowing it (although that precedes being). We sense His presence in everything.

Flowing Freely

God's love is a passionate river, and we are to stand in its path with open arms, to receive it and to let it flow through us to others. (uninterrupted, unhindered)

Forgiving our brother

- If our attitude is "Lord, do I have to forgive THIS person?", you're asking the wrong question in your soul.
- Maybe it should be "Lord, I want to obey You, how do I forgive this person?"

Hindering Sanctification

Do YOU want the benefits of His love, but then want to hold back those same benefits from others in your life?

Hindering Sanctification

If we choose NOT to love our enemies, we hurt ourselves, stunting our own sanctification, and stopping the flow of God's love to those who really need it (those who are sick, lost without Christ).

Accountable to the Father

This is so serious to God the Father, that Jesus says whoever does not forgive his brother from the heart, will be disciplined so severely by The Father that it is like be handed over to the torturers. Mat 18:34-35

Go to your Father!

And this is why we must go straight to Him, when we lack the proper attitude on any issue. We must go ask Him for more faith, because that is the issue when we resist His instructions (i.e. when we don't forgive someone). We must get on our knees and ask Him for help, right then, for supernatural help forgiving our brother from the heart.

Jer 3:10 NIV

In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense," declares the Lord.

Forgive your brother from your heart!