

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/9/16 - Guest Speaker: Evangelist Scott Grande -  
Hindering God's Love Means Hindering Your  
Sanctification - Part 3

## **What motivates faith?**

The greater a person's love for God, the more "willingly humble" he will walk by faith. 2Co 5:14

## **When we get in the way...**

We get selfish with God's grace (it's for me and my benefit alone), and 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 your neighbor...**

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

BE a neighbor. Luk 10:36

## **Luk 10:36-37**

*"Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."*

## **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?

### **Matt 18:21-35**

Forgiveness and mercy allows God's love to flow through us, and when we bottle it up, it is evil in God's sight.

### **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

### **Living in pretense?**

You can't pretend to forgive your brother, and harbor bitterness without God knowing it.

### **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.

### **A truly urgent matter**

After all, it's HIS love we are stopping the flow of! How can we be possessive with HIS love? And that after He freely poured it out on us in mercy! May it never be!

### **Prov 21:1-2**

*The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord;*

*He turns it wherever He wishes.*

*Every man's way is right in his own eyes,*

*But the Lord weighs the hearts.*

### **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!**

### **Forgiveness and the Heart**

God knows the heart, and whether we are surrendering, or pretending.

### **Applying Forgiveness**

Even though He died for the sins of the whole world, 1Jo 2:2, the Lord said unless people believe in Him, they will "die in their sins", John 8:21,24.

### **Matt 18:15**

*"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you*

*have won your brother.*

### **The Attitude of Forgiveness**

We have no right to hold back the limitless love of God, as He forgave us without limits.

### **Applying Forgiveness**

Repentance is what triggers the act of forgiveness by the one who loves God.

#### **William MacDonald**

*"The answer is that there are stages in the administration of forgiveness, as follows:*

*1. When a brother wrongs me or sins against me, I should forgive him immediately IN MY HEART (Eph 4:32). That frees me from a bitter, unforgiving spirit, and leaves the matter on HIS shoulders.*

#### **William MacDonald**

*2. While I have forgiven him in my heart, I do not yet tell him that he is forgiven. It would not be righteous to administer forgiveness publicly until he has repented. So I am obligated to go to him and rebuke him in love, hoping to lead him to confession (Luke 17:3).*

#### **William MacDonald**

*3. As soon as he apologizes and confesses his sin, I tell him that he is forgiven (Luke 17:4).*

### **The Evil of the Flesh**

When our brother comes up to us, asking for forgiveness, with a repentant heart, it is evil in God's eyes to reject him. That is when our own hearts need repentance, and God will see to it that we see our error. Mat 18:35