

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/23/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Our Father Is Sovereign

How great to have the promises of a compassionate Father who has the perfect power to pull it all off.

Perspective

God Is Light (1Jo 1:5). God is Unity (One - Jas 2:19). We often learn about God by beginning with His attributes and then pointing back to "Him". However, in the end, what He wants us to realize is that these attributes are the results of the eternal God being who He is, intrinsically Light. We do not "construct" God out of a list of attributes (ala existentialism) any more than the human eye can construct white light out of a rainbow.

Light and Synchronicity

Mercy is one facet of God's Light. If we apply the "prism" of systematic theology, we might "see" mercy as a particular "wavelength/color" of light, which is fine for study purposes, but we ought never divorce it from the Unity of the Light, Himself, or His other, infinite attributes.

Making Room For Darkness

If we put God in a box, we have made those areas in our lives where God has been "boxed out" areas of darkness. It is then that we begin wrestling with darkness out of perceived human necessity. Contrarily, if we have the fullness of Light, we do not wrestle with darkness.

Read Your Bibles!!!

Read for context. Observe the people. Accept clearly stated theology as "gold refined by fire" (Rev 3:18) and keep away from hyper-doctrinalization. Pray for faith, for God "gives grace to the humble" (Jas 4:6).

"Seeing It All As Truth In the Light

Throwing all our anxieties on Him "works" because by faith we say, "Well, we've given it over to Him, and He'll take it from here!" If we wrestle with it with our own flesh (because we are arrogant), we don't have the promises of deliverance; rather, we have darkness to strive against (something we cannot overcome on

our own).

Jn 10:37-38

"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

God Demands Our Humility

Arrogance cannot deliver you, only God can, leaving you with a single option - humility. A saved/delivered person is an obedient one. An obedient person enjoys God's peace in time, a disobedient one doesn't.

Our Father Blesses Us

Remember, the flesh doubts the goodness of God. But call it out for what it is; a liar. "Stand firm in the faith" (1Co 16:13).

Our Fathers Attacked

The flesh hates any form of godly fatherhood because it implies humility, respect, and obedience. In fact, fatherhood, in general, is offensive to the flesh.

Fathers

- Our Father in Heaven
- Spiritual "fathers" (Apostles, shepherds, etc.)
- Fathers in earthly families
- Father figures (mentors, etc.)

Fathers

The issue with fathers isn't whether or not they are worthy of your respect, it's whether or not YOU are worthy to submit to their authority.

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

- We can focus on their imperfections, resulting in misery, or;
- We can focus on how God uses them to our benefit and His glory, resulting in blessing.

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

If you can say in your heart that you trust God the Father in Heaven, then why would you distrust His choice of authority in your life? If the perfect Father placed you in submission to an imperfect father on earth, then the situation is perfect for you.

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

God never says that a father's failures disqualify him from leading his subordinates under the auspices of authority-orientation. If this were the case, every father in the Bible, besides God, would stand disqualified (in stark contradiction to scripture on obedience to authority).

A Father's Heart

Carrying the responsibility of being a father is difficult enough without the added pressure of being cross-examined by your subordinates. Those who perpetrate this heinous act are actually foremost revealing a distrust towards God (in Heaven), not their fathers (all earthly types).

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Sanctification

Living the spiritual life, in Christ, in the new creature, is more like avoiding being dragged off of the victor's stand than trying to climb up.