

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/8/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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William MacDonald

"We are often weary in His service, though not weary of it."

Humility receives grace, boldly.

False Humility

False humility is nothing more than covert arrogance in full bloom (ref: new book titled Covert Arrogance - coming soon). Saying things like, "Well, I don't want to bother God with that issue," is about as "off" as a person can get! It's arrogance in the sense that it assumes responsibility for God's work.

Living the Spiritual Life

It's not about doing 'this or that', specifically, as a part of some homemade plan, it's about being "filled" (pleroo means to be fulfilled). The "control" aspect of being filled is a blessed surrender, not a disgruntled, adolescent submission.

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.

Living the Spiritual Life

Soldiering is a way of life, not a job. You are on call 24x7. The only way you won't become utterly frustrated with the uncommon requests for your time/energy is if you totally submit to the cause. You must commit, fully, otherwise; you'll be miserable.

Your Life

Until you're "all in", life will be a mishmash of frustration and joy - confusion. It's really a picture of the war being waged between your new self and your old self (flesh).

"they have denied its power"

The underlying issue with religion is that it never delivers a person (from sin to righteousness) because it denies the only power in the universe able to do so - God's.

A Different Form of Godliness (2Ti 3:5)

Religious people are experts at putting on a good face, a good show; however, they are thin veneers, their spiritual lives mere shadows of the real thing.

Jn 19:30

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

"then Christ died needlessly"

possibly the greatest insult to the Person and work of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that any human could suggest; yet, that is exactly what any religion claiming certain sins were not paid for on the Cross are suggesting!

False Humility

Religion is nothing more than institutionalized arrogance (aka false humility).

Ro 12:1 [Amplified]

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

Ro 12:2 [Amplified]

And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

Practical Sanctification

Sanctification, though a reasonably "technical" term, is really about learning how to live a life of confidence in Christ, a life of peace with the Spirit's encouragement, and a sense of reality in the Gospel truth. In brief, sanctified means focusing on Jesus Christ to the point that everything else fades to the background.

Synthesize...

- Jn 3:16 *"For God so loved the world [ref: everyone], that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
- Ro 9:21 *Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?*

Practical Sanctification

It is very important for you to feel a sense of individuality, but not a loss of connection with others.

Ro 1:17

Describes the essence of life for a true believer. A person being saved (daily) is a person who is being sanctified (daily).

Sanctification Perspectives

God's Perspective

- Sanctified (set apart for Him)

Man's Perspective ("phases")

- Positional (imputed R+ / judicially)
- Experiential (imparted R+ / daily)
- Ultimate (completed R+ / eternally)

Positional Sanctification (Imputed "Phase")

God wills to sanctify (make holy) the whole world by saving them through Jesus Christ. Those who have been saved from the penalty of sin (Positional Salvation) are delivered to imputed (judicial) righteousness through justification (Ro 4:23-25). A believer's position "in Christ" is the greatest inspiration for holy living (aka Experiential Sanctification). (Ac 20:32; 1Co 1:2; 6:11; Heb 10: 10, 14; Jude 1:1)

Positional Sanctification

All saints are equally sanctified "in Christ". Since believers are sanctified judicially on the merits of Christ, Himself (He has become righteousness unto them), positional sanctification is perfected in all those who are saved.

*** Phases-of-Sanctification diagram ***

1Co 6:11

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1Co 5:2

You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

Positional & Experiential Sanctification

While the Corinthians were holy (e.g., 2Co 9:1-2) and unholy in life (e.g., 1Co 5:1-2; 6:1-8) in terms of experiential sanctification, they are said to have been sanctified, positionally (1Co 1:2; 6:11).

2Co 9:2

for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

Heb 10:10 [Amplified]

And in accordance with this will [of God] we [who believe in the message of salvation] have been sanctified [that is, set apart as holy for God and His purposes] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) once for all.