

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/15/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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"the eternal purpose"

refers to the Church's supreme purpose of glorifying God; we members have been predestined to partake in that activity

"to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge"

Christ's love is far beyond human intellect, far beyond human reason or thinking - it surpasses [hyperballo = transcend].

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Practical Sanctification

If you are "being" encouraged daily, then you are being sanctified daily (experientially). Consider the flip side - if you are discouraged, something's wrong. God will never discourage a person for doing good.

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- Point 4: God's gifts are the seeds of good fruit (e.g., encouragement) (Jas 3:17-18)

Finding Encouragement

There's nothing sweeter than the Word of God for a wounded soul...nothing more encouraging than the Word imparted.

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First Things First

If experiential sanctification is a practical issue, how does one "get practical" about it, once they understand the theology? First, it's God's job to change (sanctify) us, so we mustn't "force" the issue. Man's primary job is to remain humble, receiving what He gives us (e.g., knowledge, wisdom, perspective, etc.).

First Things First

Arrogance will try to hijack the simplicity in sanctification by inserting itself as a "practical doer" of sanctification. That's the basis of perverted religion.

First Things First

A believer must first accept the basic fact that God intends to change them, their person, their essence, their very sense of being. A humble person waits for it; an arrogant one rushes it.

Dr. Karl Menninger

Psychiatrist and founder of the Menninger Clinic, has written that "*Love is the medicine for our sick old world. If people can learn to give and receive love, they will usually recover from their physical or mental illness.*"

Alan Redpath

Tells the story of a young woman who came to her pastor desperate and despondent. She said, "There is a man who says he loves me so much he will kill himself if I don't marry him. What should I do?" "Do nothing," he replied. "That man doesn't love you; he loves himself. Such a threat isn't love; it is pure selfishness."

What Is Love?

- God is love (1Jn 4)
- God gave His Son (Jn 3:16)
- Love is not characterized by romance, it is primitively selfless and giving (1Co 13)

Distinctions

Assuming 'we are what we think' (in the strictest sense) is intellectual arrogance, which is void of heart. Love, for example, would be crippled if confined to the boundaries of human thought only.

Distinctions

Arrogance will argue that if you understand something academically, then you have experience with it. However, that's one of the great lies that Jesus blasted the religious Jews for many times in scripture! (eg: Mt 21:23-45)

Distinctions

Jesus piqued the hearts of the religious people, but they "reasoned" with their minds and arrived at "We do not know". Had their hearts been truly changed (if they were believers), they would've understood Jesus.

Distinctions

Simply saying that you understand God's will isn't enough. One's heart must be changed, which is something God will only do for the humble.

"feel remorse"

from metamelomai - from [meta ="change after being with" + melo = "care, be concerned with") - properly, to experience a change of concern after a change of emotion and usually implying to regret, i.e. falling into emotional remorse afterwards

Distinctions

Only a "heartless" person could've ever killed Jesus, for if the religious Jews had hearts for Christ (had they been truly saved), they wouldn't have sought to murder Him...they would've loved Him. Scripture reveals their hearts far from God's, even though they were "educated" in His Law (they were heartless intellectuals).

Distinctions

God is after "us"...which, although "us" includes our minds (where our thoughts are), "us" is much bigger, including our hearts, our spirits, and our souls.

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).

Religious people are worthless soldiers.