

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/17/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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"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].

"filled up to the fullness of God"

Compare with the fullness of Christ in v4:13, and the fullness of the Spirit in v5:18.

Eph 4:13

until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Eph 5:18

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

J. Vernon McGee on "the fullness of God"

Christ was thus filled. In proportion to our comprehension of the love of Christ, we shall be filled with all the fullness of God.

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.

Practical Sanctification

If you're feeling discouraged, remember that said discouragement is a result of your own human plans being smashed by the sovereign God. He's doing you a favor by revealing to you how discouragement is at the core of the flesh!

Ro 14:23b

...and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Ro 12:3b

...God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Jas 1:17a

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above...

Jas 3:17a

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering...

Synthesize...

- Point 1: whatever is not from faith is sin (Ro 14:23)
- Point 2: faith is a grace gift (Ro 12:3; Eph 2:8)
- Point 3: every gift from God is perfect (Jas 1:17)
- Point 4: God's gifts are the seeds of good fruit (e.g., encouragement) (Jas 3:17-18)

Courage Is Faith Applied

Courage is really just another word for faith (applied). Therefore to be encouraged means to inspire one's faith in the direction of doing righteously.

Courage Is Faith Applied

Faith comes from the Word imparted. The Holy Spirit will convict you of the authenticity of the Word so as to wash away any doubts! The faithful are the courageous.

Courage has no rank.

Psa 28:7 [Amplified]

The Lord is my strength and my [impenetrable] shield; My heart trusts [with unwavering confidence] in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I shall thank Him and praise Him.

Finding Encouragement

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

Practical Sanctification

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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)

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).

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].