

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/24/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Humility and the Supernatural Life

It's only that person with a humble attitude of surrender that receives the utmost grace of God, in his experience. It's the humble person that lives by faith (Ro 1:17), making that life righteous in the eyes of God (for every perfect gift is from above - Jas 1:17).

Three Persons, One Godhead

It's impossible for the human mind to fully articulate the Trinity. Faith strives in the absence of human comprehension. (Mt 28:19; 2Co 13:14; 1Pe 1:2)

Supernatural Faith

It's actually good that you can't "figure out" the supernatural (e.g., the Trinity). This "failure" forces faith's hand in you. Faith must be tested in a believer for it to consummate the confidence necessary to persevere (ala 1Pe 1:7 - the "proof of your faith").

Supernatural Worship - Jn 4:24

Fellowship with the Father is through Christ (ala "in truth"). This is assured at salvation, but continues as the basis for sanctification. At salvation, a man's human spirit is made so that he can comprehend spiritually appraised things (ala "in spirit"). This is not possible for unregenerate man (1Co 2:14).

Natural Stumbling Blocks

When you're intellectually superior, it's difficult for anyone to contradict your theories, even when your theories contradict the Bible. A believer will always "lose" the battle if they concede it can be fought inside the finite realm of human rationalism.

Self-Sanctification

True faith is a surrender, in total recognition of our own inability to be spiritual, to "figure God out". The self-sanctifier puts God in a box via human rationalism, then makes his choices about that perversion of God (which is really a different god).

Frustrating Sanctification

Until you surrender, your flesh is literally standing in the way, blocking your view

of God. Surrender means living the Gospel reality, enjoying the truth of our position in Christ - this becomes our sanctification!

Sanctification Simplified

Sanctification is a state of being, not a series of check boxes. "Being" implies doing; however, the opposite is not true. Being in love, grateful, hopeful, confident, etc...these are the essence of sanctification (cp Gal 5:22-23 - the fruit of the Spirit).

Sanctification Simplified

If the Holy Spirit is the "host" of the spiritual life, being transcendent (huperballo), then His fruit in believers must also be transcendent. We don't "do" spiritual things, we "are" them...our deeds are merely the evidence.

Sanctification Simplified

If we are to understand true sanctification, we must understand that it cannot be achieved in the absence of a grateful heart. The Cross is the mainstay of a believer's gratitude.

Sanctification Is Purifying Our Motivations

"Treasures" - from Ivory Palaces

by Martha Snell Nicholson

Drinking Cups

God fills our cups, purifying the contents as he sanctifies us (removing the slag), and we drink from it throughout our daily lives. (cp Mk 10:38-39; Jn 18:11; 1Co 10:21)

"the cup that I drink"

Jesus was talking about suffering and even death. No one has ever been sanctified to the degree He was, which means that suffering is a definite part of sanctification. We must drink that which God places in our cups.