

North Christian Church -

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11/3/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -
Part 16

The Essence of God

When we think of God, we must think of His activities and His will as absolutely the same. We must also recognize that all of His attributes function synchronously at all times. Therefore, we should avoid using words like "can't" or "must" in favor of "won't" or "desires", respectively.

The Essence of God

If we observe God through a finite lens (mankind's), we often inadvertently put Him into a struggle with Himself. However, if we seek His perspective, we observe that it's by the very will of God that things happen. God never contends with Himself.

The Essence of God

To say that God's grace somehow "overrides" His justice, or vice versa, is to presuppose that one of His attributes has tension with another. This is never true. Man is the one with such internal struggles (ala Ro 7) - we mustn't ascribe such things to God.

The Essence of Man

Egocentrism precludes its host from being objective about God. An egocentric person is an arrogant person who demands the world be "known" from their perspective.

The Early Signs

All infants are egocentric. They are born fleshly. They demand that the rest of the world exist to serve them. They expect that everyone else sees things the way they do (that they are the center of the Universe). Infants then grow up!

The Essence of God

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The Essence of God

If we observe God through a finite lens (mankind's), we often inadvertently put Him on a "treadmill". However, if we seek His perspective, we observe that it's by the very will of God that things happen. God never contends with Himself.

The Essence of God

To say that God's grace somehow "overrides" His justice, or vice versa, is to presuppose that one of His attributes has tension with another. This is never true. Man is the one with such internal struggles (ala Ro 7) - we mustn't ascribe such things to God.

The Essence of Man

Egocentrism precludes its host from being objective about God. An egocentric person is an arrogant person who demands the world be "known" from their perspective, as a primitive.

God Is Immutable

- Heb. 13:8-9a *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings.*
- Jas 1:17b ... *the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

Step Back

Stop being so mechanical. Start focusing on God, Himself, instead of His attributes or even His commands as individual, bitwise, categorical doctrines. Instead of thinking of "assembly lines and gears", think of synchronicity and "being".

Grace Perspective

God's grace is what's best FOR you, not TO you (not what you think). When perceived as for you, you understand that His will is done. However, when perceived as to you, you understand (falsely) that your will be done.

A Broken Clock...

Even a broken clock is correct twice a day. A person can sometimes be correct, but for the wrong reason. Just because your will happens to align with God's will doesn't mean you are righteous.

Wholly Different Perspectives

A righteous person seeks to reconcile to God's perfect will. An unrighteous person desires that God's will reconcile to their own.

On Life and Death

If God makes us alive in Christ, we can never die again, can we? ("How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Ro 6:2)! A gospel that subtracts from God's will/grace at salvation "leaves room" for "believers" living in sin after "salvation".

Wholly Different Perspectives

A righteous person seeks to reconcile to God's perfect will. An unrighteous person desires that God's will reconcile to their own.

Grace and Works

It's impossible to understand "works" in the Bible if your concept of grace is

limited. A limited viewpoint means a limited perspective, which can only lead to confusion. This confusion is NOT from God (1Co 14:33), nor is any pain involved in extracting it the "surgeon's" fault.

Grace and Works

Any confusion about works is preceded by confusion about grace!

Grace and Works

Anytime God's grace is reduced in scope and effect, it actually perverts the Gospel of Jesus Christ, manufacturing a different "gospel". This false gospel may proclaim "grace" because it is more accommodating, but it's a deceptive trap.