

North Christian Church -

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11/8/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -
Part 18

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

The lens through which we view things started immediately, out from the womb. "How to survive", in a carnal way, was built into our lives from birth, because of our sin nature.

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.

Life "exists"

Life "exists"

Since God IS eternal life, then He is the Author of all life.
We must concede that life PRE-existed any one of us.

Ecc 1:9

That which has been is that which will be,

And that which has been done is that which will be done.

So there is nothing new under the sun.

Your Perspective

Since life preexists you, your personal perspective on it cannot possibly be the source of wisdom. True wisdom is from above, given to us through the Word and the Spirit. Stubborn egocentrism frustrates our receiving such things.

The Big Picture

Life is, and has always been. And God has graciously granted us life in His overarching plan called Life.

The Big Picture

We need to surrender to His wisdom and sovereignty, and then we won't have to struggle with the confusion that we do. But it takes surrendering to Him as THE Sovereign, and being content with that.

The Big Picture

We humans struggle with grace and justice...or grace and works...or love and eternal damnation...but God doesn't. To God, life itself is obvious.

Isa 53:10

But the LORD was pleased

To crush Him, putting Him to grief;

If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,

The Essence of God

The essence of God is offensive to the person averse to ALL of His grace. They say things like, "How can a loving God crush His own Son...or ANY human being for that matter?" This is a person who doesn't understand God, or His love.

Will you continue to be the arrogant person that has to know the "why" before you trust our omniscient God??

Faith makes things clear to those who possess it...God is who He says He is!!!

This is the grace that an arrogant person cannot receive and therefore he remains in frustration regarding the things of God.

The Essence of God

Man never has the right to put God on trial. If man fails to comprehend why God does the things He does, we ought never contest His sovereign right to do so, or worse, propose that He is in contention with Himself the way we are with Him.

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.

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.

Nowhere has this been more exemplified/amplified than our ongoing discussions regarding the Gospel, proper.

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".

On Life and Death

Man seeks to impose His will over God's. He wants God to accommodate him, and then call it "grace". But you see, that's not God's grace at all, it's a perversion! God's grace accommodates His perfect righteousness, to His glory.

Grace and Works

Man is born egocentric...so much so that he supposes his own definition of salvation is the one that needs satisfying. The only way to construct such a salvation is to suppose his own definition for grace. As grace goes, so goes his definition for what grace produces, namely works. The whole system is a perversion.

It's a Big Deal!

Trusting in Christ from the heart IS NOT a light-hearted decision, and that's why we must be careful of using light-hearted language.

Jas 2:17

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead [nekros - ala Eph 2:1], being by itself.

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.