

# North Christian Church -

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10/20/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -

### Part 10

#### **Humility**

"I want to, but I know that I am unable." This is what true humility looks like in its rawest form. "The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith" (Lk 17:5)!

#### **"Your will be done"**

This is the sign of a truly humble heart that has been given faith. It is evidenced when two hearts agree/confess the same thing. Since God is immutable (never changes), it is man who's faith is reconciled to God. (ref: Mt 26:42; 6:10)

#### **"Your will be done"**

It's this reconciliation to God's will that describes the essence of authority-orientation.

#### **Authority-Orientation**

You don't need any other reason than the Lord, who has commanded you to submit, to submit. No human authority is perfect, yet all authority is delegated by God. Your focus needs to be on this fact, not the failures of those in authority.

#### **Suffering For Others**

Jesus suffered unjustly for the sake of others. If we are to "follow His steps" (1Pe 2:21), then is it fair to say that we, too, might follow His pattern, and others may be "healed" (1Pe 2:24) in some smaller way?

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#### **"Grace and Works"**

Grace is foundational to authority-orientation since authority-orientation is a good

work of faith!

### **"Grace and Works"**

Receiving God's grace is a 'respect for authority issue'. Authority-orientation, itself, is a grace gift! Obedience results in receiving more grace. This is a key element of the doctrine of "grace upon grace" that commences with salvation (Jn 1:16; Mt 13:12, etc.).

### **Sovereignty**

Sovereignty comes down to "who has the rights". Unless God has given you rights, you have none. For example, no man has ever been given the right to put God on trial, or challenge His authority. This is why we say something is "unrighteous" (un-right) - it's because the perpetrator does not have the right to do what they are doing!

### **UNrighteousness (not right)**

The last thing we need to do is encourage the flesh in others, especially regarding salvation. A dead man that thinks he can do something good is gravely mistaken. They are truly deceived. "Life", itself, has been counterfeited! The Bible describes unbelievers as "unrighteous" because their works are not right - they are not alive, they are dead!

### **God's Right To Demand**

If God demands good works from His own children (He does), He creates them in such a way that they are able to do what is right. Only a "living" person is able to produce anything (a dead person cannot).

### **Two Gospel Perversions**

People talk about "adding to salvation" (faith + works = salvation), pointing to legalism. But, how often does anyone talk about the other Gospel perversion, "subtracting from salvation" (faith - [God's] works = salvation), pointing to religions that actually SUBTRACT some of God's grace in saving man? (Deu 4:2)

### **Two Gospel Perversions**

The only difference between the "adding to salvation" perversion and the "subtraction from salvation" one is the timing of the flesh's own "works". The prior injects human works at the point of salvation, the latter injects them later. Both perversions are UNrighteous because man NEVER has the right to supplant God's grace in any good work, before or after salvation.

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