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The Fruit Reveals the Root

Justification (positional sanctification through Jesus: free gift)

Justification

- **Romans 3:21-5:21**
- **The Cross: His death**
- **An act done for us**
- **Removes the guilt and penalty of sin**

Sanctification

- **Romans 6-8**
- **The Resurrection: His Life**
- **A work done in us**
- **Removes the growth and the power of sin**

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Death verses Life Dark verses Light

Cross → *Faith alone* → **Resurrection**

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2 Corinthians 3:5-8; 4:6

- Two icons – the face of Moses (*Law*) and the face of Jesus (*Spirit*)
- The Christian can live by either, but never both at the same time – **Matthew 6:24**

In each moment and thought of my life, am I symbolically looking at the face of Moses (*relying on the flesh*) or at the face of Jesus Christ (*relying on Him in me*)?

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Faith? Sin?

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So how do we know if we are living by the Spirit or by the flesh?

- By the fruit our life produces: **Matthew 7:16-20**
- Life in Christ invariably produces fruit, life in the flesh invariably produces the non-fruit of death – the absence of fruit.
- Only a person in Jesus is alive! **1 John 5:11,12 & John 7:38**

In Christ, a person has only the mere possibility of living in the Spirit; it does not make authentic spiritual living automatic!

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This is such an important concept in our journey with Jesus, that Paul gives us four clear contrasts between living by the Spirit, or in the flesh – **2 Corinthians 3:6-11**

1. The Spirit produces Life – the flesh produces only death! v. 6

- Remember, death is the absence of life – a non-quality
- Life produces very distinctive qualities, death is the absence of those qualities
- We often think, quite incorrectly, that bad fruit come from passing moods or changing circumstances... NOT SO!

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• Both Jesus and Paul go to great lengths to make it quite clear that there is something much deeper within us – the roots – that produces death. **Matthew 7:16-18 & Galatians 5:16-26**
 • What is it? The reliance on the old me – the flesh – my inherited Adamic nature
Take depression for example: it is some form of “self-pity”
 I become depressed because I suffer some disappointment or rejection or undesirable outcome and this causes me to feel sorry for myself. I want to be admired. I want someone to focus attention on me, and when this doesn't happen, I become depressed.

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2. Stones or Hearts? v. 3;7
 • The Law was written on stones; the Spirit writes on human hearts.
 • The OC is concerned with things; the NC is always concerned with hearts – with living people.
 • One mark of false Christianity is that is always deeply concerned with the importance of things: stones, rituals, ceremonies, buildings, stained-glass windows, organs, spires, proper procedures, worship styles, etc...

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2. Stones or Hearts? v. 3;7
 • True Christianity is always concerned with people – with their hurts, struggles, needs, loss, growth, encouragement, etc...
 • religion over relationships – liturgy over reality
 • Theologians too often imprison Jesus in the ivory tower of exegesis and miss His life-giving presence. **Mt.11:28; Jn.5:39,40**
 “The church is not a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners.” *Morton Kelsey*

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3. Freedom or guilt? v. 9
 • The Law (OC) inevitably produces a sense of condemnation – or to use a more modern term, *guilt*.
 • Contrast that with righteousness – being what is right (justified) – worth, value, rightness
 “One does what is right, because one is right.” *Stedman*

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The righteous man is the man who is valued. All his internal struggles are resolved. He is no longer troubled with guilt, inadequacy, or hostility. He does not struggle with himself to produce anything, for he knows he stands accepted before God, pleasing to God. Therefore he is free to act with respect to the situation in which he finds himself. He is able to reach out to others who hurt or are fearful or feel condemned because he himself is free from these things. To depend on “everything coming from God, nothing coming from me” produces that sense of worth. That is righteousness.

On the other hand, how many Christians live continually under a sense of condemnation? When the basis for our Christian activity is dependence on something coming from us (our personality, our will-power, our gifts, our money, our courage), there is no escape from a sense of guilt, for we can never be certain when we have done enough! Around the world that basis of performance is driving Christians into frenetic activity that can result in nothing but sheer exhaustion. *Ray Stedman, Authentic Christianity*

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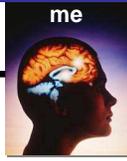
4. Fading or permanent? v. 11
 • The OC produces that which is temporary, fading, momentary.
 • The NC produces that which is permanent, resolute, steadfast.
 • “Sunday high”
 • “Camp moments”
 • “Yearly retreats”

The Big Push...

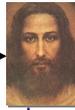
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Moses
Law
Flesh
Sight
Rules



me



Jesus
Grace
Spirit
Faith
Freedom

Eph. 3:14-19

- What do I think?
- How do I feel?
- What do I want?
- What do I believe?

- What does He say?
- How does He feel?
- What does He want?
- What does He say is True?

