Tuesday's Touch …#26

…from Pastor Ed …July 21, 2009

Receiving Truth… Part 5

The Primacy of Love

…You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,… You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Matt 22:37-40

…love is the fulfillment of the law. Rom 13:11,(cf vs.8)

For all of the law is fulfilled in this… You shall love your neighbor… Gal 5:14

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart… 1Ti 1:5

We have been considering direct statements from the Bible concerning the understanding of truth from the scriptures. These principles must form our first hermeneutic (method of interpreting scripture). We've seen that (1) Jesus said that all scripture is ultimately about him; (2) the Holy Spirit alone can reveal truth and must be the teacher; and that (3) Christ has also gifted the church with preachers and teachers to assist the saints in their learning and equipping.

We now come to perhaps the most important element of this hermeneutic next to Christ, himself. The statement of Jesus in Matt. 22:36-40 (et al) cannot be overemphasized. ALL scripture hangs on these two admonitions to love. If what we are 'learning' does not increase our love for God in Christ, and does not effectually promote the outworking of the "love of God [which] has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom 5:5), then we are not being taught truth by the Holy Spirit. In 1 Cor 13:1-3, Paul warns us that being zealous for truth, and even self-sacrificing in service, can be motivated by a religious zeal that is not rooted in, and motivated by, love, and is, therefore, useless.

Love is the fulfilling of the law. (Matt 7:12; Rom 13:10, et al). Those of us whose Christianity has been deeply rooted in law find it difficult to trust that Christ in us by his Spirit (through the regeneration of the new birth) will actually and effectually validate this truth, without yoking it to all kinds of legal limitations and qualifications. But the love of God in Christ (subjectively and objectively) will sanctify us. In 1 Thess 3:12-13, Paul prays that God would cause them to increase in love, in order that he might establish their hearts blameless in holiness! Divine love in us is the fulfilling of the law!

Therefore, when the Christian comes before the scriptures, it is no longer a question of which passages apply or do not apply. ALL scripture is inspired, and profitable, and given for our learning (2 Tim 3:15-16; Rom. 15:4). And, ALL scripture is given that we might be perfected in loving God and men. It all applies! **BUT, <u>none</u> of it is law** to the child of God in Christ, ***in the sense of*** being an external code to which we must conform

ourselves. This does not equate to antinomianism. The law is but a reflection (faint, at best) of the holy character of Christ- *the very image to which we are now being conformed!* O believer in Christ! Please pray to grasp how infinitely far the New Covenant in Christ surpasses any possible written code! All of the word of God has become to us as nutrient rich soil from which the soul in union with Christ is nourished to bear the innumerable fruits of perfecting love, by the power of the indwelling Spirit.

When Christ is our focus, and love is both the motivator and the goal of our sanctification, there is a synergism in the New Covenant between Christ, the Holy Spirit, the believer, and the word of God that unleashes that transforming power that works effectually in us (please read Eph 3:16-21 carefully!).

Eternal Fountain of Glory, Life and Love,

Grant your Son his rightful place in the hearts of your children. Forgive us for our small estimation of Him that we would esteem the reflections of his glory greater than himself.

Being Transformed by Love,

Amen

To comment, add a friend, or to ask more information about the salvation offered to us in Christ, please respond to: ***Tuesdays_Touch@SpringwoodChapel.com*** *or pastored@ SpringwoodChapel.com*

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