

29 Repentance for the Psychological Area of Life

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Repentance for the Psychological Area

Man's default from birth is to be equal with God, if not to rise above Him. Not only is this a sin, but it is entirely fruitless. So why do we attempt to do such a ridiculous thing? This sin, which became our identity in the Garden, was and is to be like God. Even though the thought of such an act is absolute idiocy, we practice such futility on a daily basis. Seriously, how could the Creator and Sustainer of all of the universe and beyond; the Designer of everything spiritual, psychological, and tangible; the Controller and Lord of all thrones, dominions, and powers (both visible and invisible); and the Architect of eternity possibly have an equal?

"I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:5-6).

For mankind to think they can know the mind of the Lord, by making use of their own futility, is nothing short of ridiculous.

"For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:34-36).

Playing God is the most pervasive attitude, because it characterizes every single descendant of Adam. No human endeavor, objective, or relationship is free of the ramifications of man's will set in opposition to or in competition with God's will.

One of the first things we need to look at is one's own sin of challenging, opposing, or usurping God's sovereignty. Secondly, repenting of this affront to Him is of the utmost importance. This is all mustered up in the psychological area of life, because it is clearly a war of the wills of man vs. God.

We might ask ourselves the following questions:

- What is our mind-set toward God, when His will for us crosses our own will?
- Do we find ourselves mentally setting standards of conduct those around us must follow, in order for us to feel accepted?
- What goes on in our minds when others, and God, do not meet those standards?
- Do we frequently function with an independent spirit, without regard for the plans of others and God?
- Do we expect to be praised, commended, or rewarded for every good thing we do?

These questions drive to the heart of our psychological area of life!

“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High’” (Isaiah 14:12-14).

This mind-set comes directly from the enemy. In this Isaiah passage, we see what happened to Satan when God cast him from heaven down to earth. He was put on this earth to weaken the nations. Why? Because he tried to raise himself to God’s throne, attempted to function as God, and tried to be like God. When he was cast to the earth, he attempted to replicate this sin by manifesting temptations for man to do the exact same thing. We call this Godship.

Godship is the most evident and destructive element in mankind’s relation to God and others. For some, Godship is a subtle aspect of the mind, will, and emotions cleverly disguised (or even hidden from view), unless and until a certain combination of circumstances triggers it into expression. This is when the sin of completion comes into play with God, before the eyes of all in heaven and on earth. Such a person functions with a covering of what he considers sound reasoning in what he does and how he lives. He may not realize it is a covering, until the Holy Spirit brings it to the forefront by way of conviction.

For a lot of us, these are expressions of genuinely egocentric attitudes. But for many, they show up in numerous forms of selfishness, such as inward self-centeredness and self-pity. Covert as they may be, it is sin!

As with most self-life expressions, rejection needs to be identified as a contributing factor in playing God. We must identify these areas of rejection and gain understanding of our reactions. We must not in any way excuse them, but rather bring repentance to each.

Because a proud, self-sufficient, or self-occupied mind is so opposite of the mind of Christ within, true redemption becomes difficult to apply and process. This is why teaching individuals (who have the indwelling life of Christ) their identity is of utmost importance.

The psychological area of life is the “control center” where all appropriations of one’s identity in Christ must begin. Discipleship is the process of addressing all the psychological roadblocks to embracing identification in Christ.

This entire writing project is addressing this area of life. Since all Truth comes through the renewing of the mind, the psychological area of life becomes our field of appropriation.

“For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16).

The only way we can have a renewed mind is through the mind of Christ within us. To attempt to be free from our sins through our own mind-set is Godship. If we allow, or release, the mind of Christ from within, we can find an easy pathway to renewal and experiential freedom.

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