

"Sin causes us to assign to ourselves the wisdom, strength, and righteousness we do not have. Sin causes us to dethrone God and enthrone ourselves. Sin is shockingly proud and self-assured. Sin really does cause us all to fall into the delusion that we can be like God. And because sin does this to all of us, it is dark, deceitful, and dangerous. Self-reliance and self-sufficiency as your fundamental approach to life will never lead to anything good." - Paul David Tripp

GADSBY'S CATECHISM

by William Gadsby (about 1800)

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Question LXXIX. Can you give a proof of the precepts of the gospel as a rule in the family?

Answer. Yes; as it is written, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged," "but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Eph. 5.22-25,33 & 6.1-4; Col. 3.18-21.

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Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark 12:30

It is obvious that this is not the first of the Ten Commandments which is familiar to all: *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3.* In the light of the weight placed upon human responsibility it is first in priority. That comprehensive statement embodies all that is set forth as to our relationship to God in the first four commandments. Of course, our Lord was quoting directly from Deuteronomy 6. It would seem that He was not giving a shortened version of the Commandments so much as He was bringing to bear the ultimate requirement of God for a right relationship with Himself. In describing the nature of this love of His people for Him, Christ was declaring that grace would provide every answer to the requirements of the Law as it was given to Israel who could not and did not keep it.

The woman at the well in Samaria broached the subject of worship with Jesus. She and many others were not ready for the answer He gave. *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24.* We introduce this thought here in that the connection is to be made to an active component in the matter of worship as well as loving God as it is set forth in this text. True worship will proceed from the love that is described here. Sinclair Ferguson in a recent essay (in *Pulpit Aflame*) wrote “...the greatest commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength involved the whole person.” As such then he further implied

that apart from the true love of our Lord there could be no worship. Such acts as prayer, praise and devotion could never arise where there is no love as is described here.

The very words “love” and “worship” have been given definitions that fall far short of that which is declared here. When religion moves from a Christ-centered format to a man-centered format a necessary reassignment of terms occurs. Both then are limited by the versions of the words that apply to men. Love becomes the fickle emotion that serves at the will of the possessor. It demands no absolutes as to devotion and is simply called up as needed. Even marital love that is not Christ centered is superficial at best. Likewise, worship becomes that which invokes a sense of pleasure or joy in the realm of purely human emotion. So it is that many toss around the word “awesome” without experiencing true “awe.” Certainly they do not stand in awe of God. Sadly this is the case of much that is called worship and expression of love to God. Music, for example, can be made to stir the emotions and cause men to think they are doing God a favor with their pitiful excuse for expressions of love for Him.

The language here is that of the Law and while grace is required to order it, it must be so if the absolute requirement is to be met. The sovereignty of God is expressed in the preceding verse and so this can be no less than a commandment. But, where the miracle of grace is applied there is gracious compliance and a

thing of wonder and beauty occurs – men loving God as He requires. You must be born again! The heart (seat of affections) is drawn out in unabashed adoration for and submission to our Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That which is stirred in the heart involves the deepest and purest of emotions and we are drawn out in such affection as defies description. All other loves pale in comparison and the attraction of the heart is single and exclusive. Such is the active engagement of the heart in love and worship.

The soul (or the very being) is to be engaged in this great love which is eternally authored and exemplified in the love of Christ our Lord. The idea that the soul is engaged in loving the Lord our God implies that our innermost self is affected and becomes expressive of all that is felt with regard to Him. There is more than mere emotional effect and it is more than a sense of the commitment of self – it is all this and more. We are totally affected and we are totally expressive. Such love cannot be silent about its object.

The mind is engaged as we intelligently assess the value of the one so loved. While we fall far short of a true evaluation we join with the one declaring of old, "...yea He is altogether

lovely." We are able to know of all that He has done in expressing His love for us and of redemption in particular. Thus, heart and soul are informed of the One who has purchased us with His own blood! What a marvelous gift is ours, that "we have the mind of Christ" so that our affections are set on things above and not earthbound in any way.

So it is that the fullness of our force is engaged and by this we understand that loving is extended to all our faculties. It is not unusual for the Lord's people to become animated and emotional in expressing their love for the Lord our God and in expressing themselves in the true worship of Him who alone is worthy of such honor, glory and praise. This is especially true in preaching the Word (which is worship).

Inasmuch as our Lord expressed such a requirement, it behooves us everyone to examine our hearts, our souls and our minds for such love as God requires and seek Him until we have it and experience it as we ought and then to express it in the true worship of God in Spirit and in Truth. The focus of true love and true worship is not the good feelings of the participant – It is Christ. When this is so the Joy given by the Spirit will attend. *bhs*

The Preacher's Labor in the Lord

The word "labour" as used by Paul refers to intense labor with its attending troubles and weariness. Everything since the fall is attended with its thorns and thistles. This "labour" Paul says under divine inspiration is "not in vain" or "is not fruitless." The word for "vain" in the original meant an empty vessel. No laboring in the Lord is in vain.

Early in Charles H. Spurgeon's ministry he asserted that if a preacher preached the gospel with expectation, God would give fruit for the labor. A key was the minister's expectation. Many a minister took Spurgeon's words to heart but failed to see the same results! Disappointment perhaps was their outcome. His early ministry saw a great manifestation of God's blessings. However, Spurgeon confessed toward the end of his ministry to a group of preachers that he had been wrong on this assertion. The following quotes are taken from Spurgeon's *An All-round Ministry* a book of his Addresses to Ministers and Students. The chapter from which these quotes are

retrieved is titled "The Evils of the Present Time, and Our Object, Necessities, and Encouragements:"

I used to think that we had only to preach the gospel, and the people would throng to hear it. I fear I must correct my belief under this head.... Personally, I have no reason to doubt the attractiveness of the old, old gospel; but I am assured that some of my brethren, who faithfully preach the gospel of Christ, do not find the people flocking about them. We all feel that a hardening process is going on among the masses.

He then asked the question "Why?"

Why is this? ... I believe that the answer, in some measure, lies in a direction little suspected. There has been a growing pandering to sensationalism; and, as this wretched appetite increases in fury the more it is gratified, it is at last found to be impossible to meet its demands.

The "pandering" he mentioned is full blown now. Later on he asked:

How do you, at this time, look at your life's mission? What is that mission? ... I think I hear you answer, "Our chief end is to glorify God." We do not regard it as our first business to convert sinners, nor to edify saints; but to glorify God. If we have preached God's truth, and on any one occasion no souls have been saved thereby, we are still "unto God a sweet savour of Christ," as well in those that perish as in those that are saved. The preaching of Jesus Christ is the burning of sweet odours before the throne of God, and to the Lord it is evermore an acceptable oblation. The sacrifice of Jesus is that which makes the world bearable to a holy God, and the preaching of that sacrifice is a savour of rest unto Him.

Are we glorifying God? Is that our aim in the ministry? We should aim to honor the God who called us to such a holy calling. Faithfulness to Him is paramount! All the Lord's genuine servants would love to see a great ingathering of souls under their ministry. Oh! Great God would you rend the heavens and come down? But with the angels we say, "Glory to God in the highest...."

"He who has an easy time of it, in his ministry here, will have a hard time of it in the account to be rendered by-and-by." Pastor Ron Rumburg



How did the Puritans know when someone got saved?---They didn't have invitations and ask people to raise their hand. Well, that's easy...their life changes and they keep coming to church....if their life doesn't change and they don't keep coming to church....they didn't get saved. Salvation isn't a card filled out... it's a life lived out....Paul Washer

To suppose that whatever God requireth of us-- that we have power of ourselves to do, is to make the cross and grace of Jesus Christ of none effect." John Owen

If every man on earth became blind it would not diminish the glory of the sun, moon and the stars...and if every man on earth becomes atheist, it would not diminish the Glory Of God. God has no need of you. A. W. Tozer