

Freedom from the Prison of Perfectionism

God has called us to freedom and liberty in every area of our lives, but Satan, if he can't keep us from being saved, still wants to keep us in bondage. That's what he was doing to the saints in Galatia. The apostle Paul says in Galatians 3:1-3:

"O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"

Paul was challenging the Galatians: "Did you get saved by keeping the Ten Commandments or by trusting in Jesus Christ?" When he says "the flesh," he's not talking about our actual flesh, but he's talking about our Adamic nature, which tries to be good so that Almighty God can receive us.

What is perfectionism? I give it to you in a sentence: it is judging yourself by your achievements. You measure your worth in terms of productivity and accomplishment, and you're always striving for unattainable goals, never reaching them, and, therefore, never, ever being fulfilled. The key words of a perfectionist are "I must, I should, and I ought." Perfectionists are not led; they are driven.

The Great Escape

Are you ready for a prison break? Let's go for it. I want to suggest two ways you can escape from life behind bars.

1. Believe that God has accepted you by grace. Ephesians 1:6 says, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us accepted in the beloved." How does God make you accepted? By His grace. Not by your works. Grace is completely contrary to human nature, which wants you to live by guilt and not by grace. God is not trying to catch you in some kind of sin or grind you under for some mistake. God is not the God of push and shove –wanting us to do more and more in order to please Him.

Grace is God's acceptance of us. Faith is our acceptance of God's acceptance of us. I'm not trying to tell you that performance is not good or that you should lower your standard. I'm trying to tell you that if you're trying to earn your acceptance before God by your performance, you will be disappointed. You'll never, ever have the freedom from this prison that the devil has put you in.

Jesus says, "I love you and I accept you for who you are. I don't love you because you're valuable; you're valuable because I love you."

2. Learn to accept other people. Don't demand perfection out of anybody because they can't give it. Let God be God, and you resign as the CEO of the universe. You see, they

don't have to earn their acceptance with God, so why should they have to earn it with you?

Donald

Donald Cherry, Minister
PCOC

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone
who believes..." Romans 1:16

Phone: (918) 647-4873

cell: (918) 721- 9212