

Small Group

Preparation and Discussion

Coram Deo- The Sanctification of the Spirit

Goals of Coram Deo Study

- ❖ The Coram Deo Study has one main goal—to learn to live with God again. Three sub-goals act as supports. Think of a stool. Living with God is the top of the stool and the three truths below are the legs.
 - Learning about God from His own mouth.
 - Guarding ourselves and other from being ashamed of the gospel.
 - Be proud enough of God to defend Him intelligently in a skeptical culture.

Preparation

- ❖ The fifth lesson covers the Spirit of Sanctification. To prepare for this lesson please do the following:
 - Read the passage
 - Listen to the sermon on our website or SermonAudio while looking at the Bible study outline below. Take notes and figure out how you will guide the group to consider each aspect of the sermon.
 - Review the timeline below and determine how you want to tailor it to your group. The outline follows the order of events in each small group.

Welcome and Worship [5-10 minutes]

- ❖ Please review your fellowship manual for extensive details. Worship can be accomplished in many ways. You could read a Psalm. You could simply open with prayer. You could sing a hymn.
- ❖ Use your judgment. What kind of worship best sets the tone to connect people with the presence of God? Invoke Him into your midst.
- ❖ Possible Resources
 - Valley of Vision
 - Hymnal
 - The Psalms

Bible Study [15-30 minutes]

Below you will find the outline from the Coram Deo: Spirit of Sanctification sermon with questions. Remember, you are not holding a seminary class. You are seeking to bring attention to a few aspects of the Spirit. The application is included, but don't focus on that yet. The sharing time is the best place to explore the implications.

Coram Deo
Ephesians 4:17-24
Spirit of Sanctification

Introduction

We are learning to live with God again. Now that you are further along down the path of the series, you can see that living with God means living with three persons. “The Bible teaches that our God is one, Made up of three; Father Spirit and Son. The Father, and Son are one, it is true! The Son and the Spirit, also one too. Each one is distinct, yet fully divine, United eternal in love for all time. Trinity means the three persons are One; Our one God is Father, Spirit and Son.”

Each person of the Trinity contributes the restoring you to communion with him. God the Father, so loved the world, that he sent His only Son. The Son so loved the Father and the world that he took upon Himself man’s nature. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary. Jesus was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure so that He might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of a mediator and surety. Through both the personal and purchased grace of the Son, the justice of God is satisfied and all the gifts of heaven are ours.

The first gift is the Holy Spirit. Two weeks ago, we learned (in the context of smug pride) that the Spirit is the Spirit of regeneration. A translation from the word ‘pala-genesis’ Notice the word ‘genesis’. The Spirit hovers over God’s people as he hovered over the formless dark void of Genesis 1 and awakens us by enlightening our minds, renewing our wills and reordering our affections. The result: The Spirit persuaded and enabled us to embrace the love of God, and the personal and purchased grace of the Son as it was freely offered to us in the in-scripturated gospel. *“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound/ That saved a wretch like me!/ I once was lost, but now am found;/ Was blind, but now I see./ ’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,/ And grace my fears relieved;/ How precious did that grace appear/ The hour I first believed.”*

Yet, this is only the beginning of the Spirit’s work. *“Finish, then, thy new creation;/ pure and spotless let us be;/ let us see thy great salvation/ perfectly restored in thee:/changed from glory into glory,/ till in heaven we take our place,/ till we cast our crowns before thee,/ lost in wonder, love and praise.”*

The Spirit has not only remade you, but works progressively with you. Changes you from glory to glory. He makes you a new person and ushers you down a new path to a heavenly destination..

Thesis

God remade you as a new person with a new path.

Division:

Recreated; Redirected

Recreated

- I. God has recreated Christians.
 - A. Consider verse 24.
 - B. The phrase, “new man...which was created according to God,” is in the passive voice.

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- C. The passive voice omits the person doing the action.
 - 1. Indian society comparison
 - 2. Here in this verse the same may be said. Who is the implied actor? Who is responsible for this creation according to God?
 - a. Well in some sense (as we have been saying) it is the love of the Father.
 - b. In another sense (as we have been saying) it is the grace of the Son.
 - c. But, the one immediately responsible for the change is the Spirit.
- D. We see the presence of the Spirit in verse 30.
- E. However, the Spirit as the one who creates the new man is clearly implied in verses 20 and 21.
 - 1. This verse has unfamiliar wording, “learned Christ.”
 - 2. We can understand this better by looking at Colossians:
- F. In Colossians 1:1-8, consider the chronology. In verse 7, you see that Epaphras ministered to the Colossian Church. In verse 5, we see that he ministered with the word of the truth of the gospel. Epaphras sowed the seed of the word and two pieces of fruit appeared. In verse 4, we see the fruit of faith and we see the fruit of love for the Christian community. Now the question is, how did they go from dead in their sins greek idolaters, to a new kind of creature who had faith and love? Verse 8 gives the answer. The love was in the Spirit.
- G. The same thing happened among the Ephesians. Paul ministered to them with the seeds of the word. They learned Christ. They heard about Christ and were taught by the teachings of Christ and all the truth that Jesus taught.
 - 1. How did greek idolaters from Ephesus accept and embrace the truth about Jesus and His kingdom? They were recreated by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. They like us were given ears to hear and eyes to see. They were given new minds, new wills, and new affections.
 - 3. Before we were dead in trespasses and sins but now we are recreated according to God in righteousness and holiness (v.24).
- H. William Wilberforce
 - 1. Grew up with influence from Methodist church, but soon overcome by worldly life and wealth.
 - 2. Carriage ride with Isaac Milner
 - a. Milner brought greek New Testament.
 - b. Discussed major teachings of Christ.
 - 3. Diary
 - a. “What madness is the course I am pursuing. I believe all the great truths of the Christian religion, but I am not acting as though I did. Should I die in this state I must go into a place of misery.” Yet, I may become religious. Has God not promised His Holy Spirit on them that ask Him?”
 - b. Met with John Newton in 1785 and was converted. He was recreated according to God in righteousness and holiness.

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[Now the Spirit not only recreated Wilberforce, but he redirected him...Place him on a new path: "The Scriptures were plain and could not be gainsaid on this most basic point: all that was his—his wealth, his talents, his time—was not really his. It all belonged to God and had been given to him to use for God's purposes and according to God's will. God had blessed him so that he, in turn, might bless others, especially those less fortunate than himself."(Metaxas)]

Redirected

- I. Recreated Christians are redirected.
 - A. Paul explains this by contrasted the path of Christ with the path of the world.
 1. Consider verses 17-19.
 2. The Gentiles are categorically those who stand for a separate culture, but more importantly they are walking down a different path in a different direction.
 3. Notice the sense of progression in the verses.
 - a. This is summarized as the futility or vanity of their thinking.
 - b. Their thinking is darkened. They have no light. They grope in the darkness. Thus, since God is light they obviously have not part with Him. This is due to the ignorance in them, their blindness of will and affection. Which has created a callousness and searing of the conscience. The climax of their life story? They give themselves over to every kind of sin. Lewdness! Greed!
 - c. This is the same progress as Romans 1.
 - d. Baby at Pocono lodge with wood stove
 - 1) Parents said not a good destination for your hands.
 - 2) Ah, but the puff of smoke
 - 3) The embers and flickering light inside
 - 4) The smell from the potpourri kettle on top.
 - e. Parent always intervene
 - f. Parent step aside (Worst thing that God would give what they want)
 - B. Paul main point.
 1. Not on that path anymore.
 2. New mind, will and affections
 3. Imagine a child that can...
 - a. See the truth of the parents words
 - b. Want the truth
 - c. Love the truth
 4. The direction will be different.

Conclusion:

God the Spirit has remade and redirected you.

God has made you a new person and placed you on a new path.

- I. When a new life is expected, then all of life orbits around that new life.
 - A. New life birth
 - B. New life adoption

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1. Work on nursery
 2. Baby proof house
 3. Read about feeding
 4. Read about napping
 5. Read about developmental stages
- C. When new life arrives
1. Nurture
- II. The Holy Spirit has given you new life
- A. New life has arrived

Question: What is the destination of your life? Is it the destination of the Gentile or the Spirit?

- I. Our great destination is righteousness and holiness
 - a. God and Man
- II. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these **destinations**.
- III. ¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, you must put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- IV. God has made you a new person and place you on a new path.

Sharing [15-30 Minutes]

1. What is the destination of your life? Is it the destination of the Gentile or the Spirit?
2. Do you dread the fact that your destination is holiness?
3. Do you nurture holiness?
4. What are some ways that you nurture the holiness 'growing' inside of you?

Prayer Time [5-10 minutes]

Remember, all kinds of prayer requests may be taken, but keep a good balance. Make sure the emphasis falls on prayer for discovered needs relative to the sanctification of the Spirit.

Socialize [Up to you]

This is a time to be intentional in your relationships. God has placed you in a leadership position of some sort. Take it seriously!