

Royal Family Relationships

At the point of salvation, as baby believers, the Lord enters us into a process that Paul called metamorphoo – transformation. Transformation is the same idea as spiritual growth, requiring that we learn the thinking & ways of Christ to make them our own. Sounds simple, just learn the biblical principles and then do them, no problem.

Yet, even though we are faithful to learn and deeply desire to live for the Lord, we discover that we have an enemy within us that sabotages our spiritual life. We are told that it is our OSN residing in the body that continues to draw us back to the dark side. So we confess our sins, study our bibles and hope for the best, but we continue to struggle with bitterness, depression or anxiety. We are insecure about our person and find ourselves hustling for our worthiness, basing God's love for us on what we do. We may have an image of freedom in Christ but we remain enslaved & inside we are same person we were before. (Rom 6-7)

So, then we learn that because of OSN, before we began listening only to God, we formed an entire system of beliefs, ideas and relational strategies, trying to make life in the devil's world work for us. All of a sudden we realize that what we have been fighting is more than just our old nature, but an entire way of thinking and living that we have built into our hearts. Then we read Paul who helps us see that God knew about this inner struggle and has made a way for us to win it.

Eph 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in righteousness and holiness from the truth.

We learn that these old, habits of thinking, feeling & relating that we built into our hearts under the influence of the OSN before we came to God must be put off if we are to escape their control over our hearts. We must commit ourselves to recognizing & rejecting all thought patterns that are not from God. In addition, we must commit to learning the truth of the mind of Christ by which we form an entire new way of thinking, feeling & relating and put it on in place of the old patterns of thinking.

If we are committed to fully change old, habituated, sinful patterns of thinking, feeling & acting, then understanding why we formed those patterns and perhaps even more the mental processing that we used to form our old habits of behavior is necessary for the journey. For in the same way that we initially put ideas into our mind, in the same way we also remove them & exchange them for thought patterns built from the thinking of Christ. The continuing effort to explain how humans think and why we react the way we do & why those reactions become our habit of life & finally how to change these unhealthy habits is the focus of this study.

Edification – Building your beliefs, expectations and relational strategies

oikodomeo – **to build** a physical structure or to build a belief & thought structure

Illustration:

Isaiah 28:9-10 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* **10** For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little

- Ideas & concepts are **built** upon other ideas & concepts in the soul of a human being – GHS uses the same faculties & processes that we used to form our sinful patterns to **build** our spiritual understanding & living.

Matthew 7:24-26 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who **built his house upon the rock.**

²⁵ "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock.

²⁶ "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who **built his house upon the sand.**

- The analogy of building a physical house to the building of a belief system
- Just as one brick is built on another, so is one idea built on another
- As the next brick is laid on top of the foundation laid by previous bricks, so our ideas are built upon the foundation of our previously believed ideas.

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will **build My church**; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

- The church is **built**, adding one believer at a time – living stones 1Pt 2:5
- Our Old Man worldly beliefs were built one idea at a time – Our New Man beliefs are built the same way, one idea at a time.

1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a **wise master builder** I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he **builds upon it**.

- As a teacher, Paul builds the truth into those who hear/believe his words
- He uses basic doctrines to build a foundation of Christian beliefs in the soul
- Other teachers build more advance concepts upon the basic foundation.

Lk 6:49, Act 9:31, Act 20:32, 1Cor 8:1, 1Cor 10:23, 1Cor 14:4 & 17, 1Th 5:11

1. Ideas are built on ideas – our present ideas are the result of choices we made in the past to believe & habituate other ideas by using them.
2. Our present day thinking & feeling patterns are based on the previous events of our life and the ideas that we chose to believe because of them.
3. Belief System: the sum total of all of the ideas you have ever believed boiled down into specific viewpoints & relational strategies for every aspect of life.
4. Before we are saved, without GHS, we are unable to process spiritual ideas and so our initial belief system is built
5. Once we are saved, we begin to form another belief system based on Christian principles that competes with our original belief system
6. Worldly Beliefs – Old Man (OM); Christ Beliefs – New Man (NM)
7. Both systems are built by faith, accepting ideas & building ideas upon ideas
8. Application:
 - a. Our habitual patters of thoughts, feelings & behaviors of today are built on ideas that we chose to believe in the past.
 - b. Our habitual sin patterns are based on OM logic that we use to justify the attitudes we adopt that cause us to sin.
 - c. One of the goals of the Christian life is to lay aside our sinful behavior & the selfish, twisted logic that compels us to choose it.

- d. Most our lives we change behaviors by suppressing the overt expressions of our selfish, reactionary logic, without even knowing the ideas behind them.
- e. Changing the outside without changing the inside thinking only insures that the thinking will show itself in some other way or same behavior returns.
- f. The purpose of digging so deep into mankind's mental processing is so that we can follow our own false logic back to its core beliefs, so that these OM ideas can be rejected & removed.

The Logic of Personal Sins

1. The topic of sin (hamartiology) is considered in 3 theological categories.
 - a. Inherited Sin – AOS is imputed to us at birth – sp. dead, condemned
 - b. Indwelling Sin – OSN in genetic structure, self-centeredness – OM beliefs
 - c. Individual – Individual manifestations of our disorientation/God
2. Individual sins can be divided into 3 categories
 - a. Mental sins – motivation for all other sins
 - b. Verbal sins – inevitable verbal expression of mental sins
 - c. Overt sins – physical expressions of sinful thinking
3. All thoughts & behaviors can be either normal human, righteous or sinful
 - a. Desire – Eph 2:3 lust (***epithumia***) of the flesh; Lk 22:15 Jesus has ***epithumia***
 - b. Anger – Eph 4:26 righteous anger cp Mt 5:22 sinful anger
 - c. Fear – Mt 10:28 do not fear man but fear God
 - d. What determines the status of a behavior is the reason it is used, for what purpose & within biblical boundaries – angry at evil or sinful anger; fornication or marital sex
4. Sins can be divided into sins of desire, sins of anger and sins of fear, yet they all share the same root, the loss of or the fear of loss of something we desire.

- a. Sins of desire are the root of all other sins with sins of anger and fear as reactions to frustrations and failures of gaining what we desire.
 - b. Desire: lust, hedonism, unrestrained sensuality, greed, boredom
 - c. Anger: frustration, resentment, bitterness, jealousy, self-pity, hatred, sinful grief, judgment, sinful guilt or shame, contempt, disillusioned, despair
 - d. Fear: fright, worry, dread, panic, horrified, terror, dismay
 - e. All or most of these can share the same motives and logic
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5. **Desire** results in idolatry when normal need/desire is attached to wrong objects that are outside of God's will – rather than providing satisfaction, when desire is wrongly attached (lust) it causes intensification of desire.
 - a. Frantic search for happiness – pursuing happiness in the earthly realm
 - b. Activates the law of diminishing returns of pleasure as the same activities produce less and less gratification.
 - c. Our logic tells us to feed the hunger & it will be satisfied but in fact the hunger intensifies, requiring more & different forms to obtain satisfaction

Principle: we attach our desires to people and earthly life, believing & expecting those things to meet the root need of our hearts. Sins of anger and fear are reactions to our failure to find fulfillment through these things or the hopeless fear that we never will.

Principle: In order to permanently exchange sins of anger or fear for the joy & peace of GHS, we must detach our desire from those idolatrous objects and our faith/expectation that those things could ever satisfy – reject our idolatry