

The Gravity of Discipleship

Philippians 2:14-15

Big Idea: God's purpose in sanctification is to use his people as a beacon of his goodness to the nations. As we cheerfully submit to his will we show to the world around us the excellence of his character and the goodness of his rule.

1. God's _____ for Sanctification

Philippians 2:15 (ESV) —15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

God's purpose in our sanctification is to show the world the _____ of his being and the _____ of his rule.

Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV) — 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

The reason why our good works are so important for our testimony before the world is because our works reveal our hearts.

John 3:19–21 (ESV) — 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

2. The _____ to God's Purpose for Sanctification

Philippians 2:14 (ESV) — 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing...

Grumbling and complaining always reveals the heart.

Our cheerful obedience glorifies the good intentions of the law-giver and shows the excellence of his character to all around us.

Deuteronomy 32:4–6 (ESV) — 4 “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. 5 They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation. 6 Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?

In this passage we see the purpose of God in working in his people and transforming their hearts. It is to attract the world to his goodness. And his goodness is shown to be most excellent when his children obey with delight as they accept his loving character and display that goodness in willing obedience.

Questions to consider

Why is God calling us to cheerful obedience? How does it show a delight in God?

How does our cheerful obedience show the world the excellence of God's character and the goodness of his rule?

In what ways are you prone to prejudice? Who do you pre-judge on the basis of some external characteristic or stereotype? How might you take steps to get to know those whom you are pre-judging?

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