

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 19, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Love-Based Obedience and Embracing God’s Narrative

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge [of God’s heart] and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense [blameless; ESV, NAS, NIV] till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians 1:9-11

Filled with the fruits of righteousness: This starts by receiving Jesus’ free gift of righteousness and results walking in a lifestyle of righteousness. Simply put, filled with righteousness speaks of being filled with “the right views of God and His Word” in every area of our life—our view of ourselves and of others, together with our view of our money, words, sexuality, time, etc.

Paul connected “abounding in love” with walking in a lifestyle of righteousness that flows from “love-based obedience ” (John 14:21). All of God’s commands are motivated by love. They produce love in us as we embrace them. Our decisions to obey Him express our love for Him. Jesus loves us with all His heart. Out of gratitude we seek to love Him with all our heart.

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.”

John 14:21

One of primary lies being promoted today is that God’s commands are burdensome—they are out of reach and cause us to lose out of reach and cause us to lose out on “real life” as they hold us in religious bondage and contradict true love. This false teaching claims that, because we have freely received grace, “hungering for righteousness” is harmful because it makes us proud and legalistic.

“...And His commandments are not burdensome.”

1 John 5:3

By Jesus: By receiving His gift of righteousness and in our on-going interaction with Him (John 15:5)

To the glory of God: God is glorified as we walk out love-based “right views and choices.”

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Embracing God’s Narrative of Others

The Lord’s narrative of Joshua was challenged by Satan’s narrative based on accusation.

“He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him... The Lord said to Satan, “he Lord rebuke you, Satan!’ ... Joshua was clothed with filthy garments... He answered... ‘Take away the filthy garments from him... See, I have removed your sin... I will clothe you with rich robes.”

Zechariah 3:1-4

“...[Satan] the accuser of our brethren, who accused them... day and night...”

Revelation 12:10

The Divine narrative is based on the profound reality that the Lord does not see as man sees.

“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at [focuses on] the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

Secular narrative: The outward appearance of one’s life as seen by others includes “the facts” about 5-10 of their main accomplishments, 5-10 of their failures, and 5-10 of their deficiencies. (In their personality or leadership skills) These facts do matter, but are not the primary determining factors in God’s narrative for people. Satan uses “these facts” to accuse people in his dark narrative.

Divine Narrative: God looks at His sovereign call on one’s life, their sincere motives (seen in their countless 10 seconds thoughts or conversation with God that reveal their intention to obey) and His interpretation of their main accomplishments, failures, and deficiencies.

“...from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh... If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:16-17