

Why we resist God's Will.

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 16th

Eph. 5:17 *"Be not unwise but Understanding what the will of the Lord is."* (Ro. 11:33-12:2)

Recognizing God's will (Ro. 12:2; Jer. 29:11) and responding to (pursuing) it requires a:

Repentance/ Recognition (Isaiah 55; Mt. 4); Reprioritization/Realignment (Mt 16; Lk 14);
and a Renovation/Remodeling of our minds. (Mt 5-7; Ro. 12:2) Renovating a mind involves:

- Recognizing (Picturing) what should be. (aka: What we (God) want{s})
- Realizing what is already there, that we (God) don't {doesn't} want that's getting in the way!
- Removing the things that are rotten, or just redundant. (Phil. 3:7,8)
- Replacing the rotten/redundant things with the quality materials (things) needed to complete the original picture or design. (Phil. 3:12-16; 2 Cor 10:3-5)

Information without application produces Deception/Frustration. (James 1:22-26)

Information with application produces Transformation. (2 Cor 3:18; Ro. 12:1,2)

The Final "Building" inspection is inevitable. (1 Cor 3:9-15)

1. God has revealed his "perfect desire/design" in:

A. His Great Commandment Mt 22:37-40 *"Which is the Great Commandment in the law?"*

- 1) Love God supremely! *"with all thine heart...soul...mind"* vs 37
- 2) Love others sincerely! *"... as thyself"* *"On these two ... hang all the law and prophets"* 40

B. His Great Commission Mt 28:18-20 *"All power is given unto me in ... Go ye therefore and:*

- 1) Share the gospel (Salvation) Vs 19a *"teach all nations."* *"Preach the gospel"* Mk 16:15
- 2) Baptize (Identification/Association) Vs 19b *"In the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost"*
- 3) Disciple (Education/Dedication) Vs 20 *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded"*

These are the Commands of Jesus!

So why aren't we "observing" them?

2. Satan works with Society and our own Selfish natures to resist God's will. (Acts 7:51)

A. This is his very nature! He is:

- 1) "The Devil" (61x) (diabolos: Accuser, slanderer)
- 2) The "Satan" (36x) (Satanas: adversary)
- 3) The "Father of lies" Jn 8:44
- 4) The "Thief" who comes to *"Steal, Kill and to destroy"* (Jn 10:10a)

B. He seeks to hinder our partnership with God and His will through:

1) Persecution (Conflict) Acts 8:1; 1 Pt 5:8,9

a) Sadly, we often partner with him. Gal 5:14-16; 1 Cor 3:1-3

2) Passivity

a) Clutter (distraction) We care too much about the wrong things! Mk 4:18-19; 2 Ti 2:3

b) Carelessness (Callousness / Self Delusion) We care too little about the right things!

Pr. 24:10-12; Ezekiel 3:18; 33:8

3) Doctrinal Poison! (Contamination) Gal. 5:7-9 *"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion comes not of him that called you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."*

a) This is one of Satan's most effective tools! Col. 2:6-12 *"As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you..."* (sylagōge'ō: seduce, capture)

b) Satan seeks to spoil us “through:

- (1) “Philosophy” (The love of {*which*} wisdom) Jms 3:13-18
 - (a) The wisdom we pursue will determine which “side” we join!
 - (b) Proverbs 9 uses two very different women to contrast these types of “Wisdom”.
- (2) “vain (kenos: empty) deceit” (apate: delusion) Satan’s a master at this. Jn 8:44; 2 Cor 11:2-3
- (3) “Traditions of men” (parad'osis: transmission.) It comes from paradid'omee which means to surrender, yield up, entrust, and so “transmit.” We tend to trust the traditions (and those we received them from) and therefore, transmit them generationally!
 - (a) What’s the trouble with Traditions?
 - Some are Biblical: 2 Thes. 2:15 (Passover, Yom Kippor, Communion)
 - Some can be helpful: (Sunday School, Holiday Traditions)
 - Some can be harmful! If Satan is successful in contaminating God’s truth with man made traditions, then they’re transmitted generationally until traditions replace God’s Truths!

Example: The Jewish Bible (Tanakh) consists of the Torah (law) Nevi'im (prophets), and Ketuvim. By Jesus' time, the Jews added the 6200 pages of the Talmud containing the Mishnah (Rabbinical Traditions) and the Gemara (Misnah Interpretations)

In practice, the Talmud was elevated above the Torah! No wonder Jesus said in Mt 15:6-9

“Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. ..., teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Conclusion:

An important part of the “Renewing (renovating) our minds” (Ro 12:2) involves recognizing if we’ve been building our spiritual lives using contaminated traditions.

Col. 2:8 *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:...12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”*

Modern baptism is an Example of the trickery of traditions.

Notice Sacred Scripture: Mt 3:16,17 *“Then Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, the heavens were opened unto him, ... the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and a voice from heaven saying ‘This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased’”*

Every one of the 89 references to Baptism use the word “baptizo” meaning: “To immerse, make fully Wet.” The Greek words for “Sprinkle” (rhantizo) or “Poured” (ekche'ō) are never used in scripture of baptism.

So why are billions of baptisms done by sprinkling or pouring? Sacred Tradition!

Application:

How has Satan been most effective at getting you to resist God’s will?

Devilish Persecution or Pressure? Deceitful Passivity? (Do we Care too much care for the temporary, and too little for the eternal? 2 Cor 4:18); Doctrinal (Scriptural) Poison?

Are we willing to allow God’s Spirit to confront and renovate our minds about:

Satan’s Persecution/Pressures? Our Personal Passivity?

Our “Traditional” Preferences?

Psalm 19:10-14; Psalm 139:23,24