

The Reason for Justification - Love

by G.W. North

The sermon emphasizes the importance of love as the greatest of faith, hope, and love, and explains how God's love is imparted through the Holy Spirit and justification.

Scripture: John 3:16, Romans 5:5, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Galatians 5:22

Topics: "Divine Love", "Justification"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes that love is the greatest of all virtues, essential for peace and spiritual life, and is a divine gift that must be continually imparted by God through the Holy Spirit. He explains that justification is God's means of restoring love within us, allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts and fill us with God's love. This love is not a one-time gift but a continuous flow that reflects the nature of God, enabling us to experience righteousness and holiness. North highlights that through Christ, we are re-admitted to the knowledge of God's love, which was lost by Adam and Eve, and that this grace is a profound blessing that allows us to share in the divine love of the Trinity. He concludes by praising the willingness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to dwell within us, making eternal life possible.

Transcript

In another letter Paul says faith, hope and love abide, and unhesitatingly declares that the greatest of these three is love. If we want peace we must have love, for peace, being less than love, cannot exist apart from it, therefore we must have love. Now, although human beings must know and have this love, it is quite beyond the capability of any human being to create it, for it is not human but divine, and being God's own love it can only be imparted by God Himself; in Himself it is natural, but it must be created in us by personal gift from Him. Since He is all-powerful and such a wonderful giver, there is no reason at all why every one of us should not have God's love. We can have it, but having received it we must beware of thinking love is a once for all gift, it is not. Love is the natural radiation of the Holy Spirit; it is so important to spiritual life that it has to be constantly shed abroad within the heart of man so that he is permanently filled with God's love. Justification is for this reason; Love is the immediate end God had in view for men by justification.

Wonderful and desirable as this was to Him, He knew it was quite impossible for Him to achieve it apart from the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Before the heart of man could be kept flooded with His love, that heart must become the permanent home of the Holy Spirit; there was no other way for it. Justification is a state created by God for man and in man, so that He can justly come and live in man and love him

there from within. Eternal life is not only a state of sinlessness, it is also a state of love; sinlessness cannot exist on its own. Justification had to be created for man by God, but love did not; love had always abounded in God, so had righteousness and holiness; like love, they are natural to God. Men fell from this blessed estate; they became neither righteous nor holy nor loving, but they never fell from being loved. So in love, by Christ, God recreated conditions of righteousness and holiness for man, and by the Holy Spirit has made this known to us. The restoration to original love is the greatest proof to a man that he is made righteous and holy -- O the gratitude that fills the heart of every person who knows this in experience; he shouts for joy because the nature of God has come to the heart.

This is the grace in which we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. What grace this is -- beyond grace of forgiveness and righteousness and holiness -- this grace of God's love exceeds all -- the glorious gospel is that man has been re-admitted to that knowledge of God's love which Adam and Eve left and recklessly threw away. Yea, and greater still we have been brought into the inter-communication and holy intercourse of that love as it is known and enjoyed by Father, Son and Holy Spirit between themselves. O how wonderful is our God's grace to us that we should share in this great love as being by nature born to it -- sons of His love. Blessed be the name of the glorious Holy Spirit that He should be so willing to dwell in these hearts of ours, nor consider Himself to be demeaned thereby, that He should graciously give us opportunity to know what it feels like to be a son of God. O praise Him, who is so meek and humble that He wants all the glory and praise for it to be given to the Son. It is the Holy One's good pleasure that He should be sent by the Father to follow on after Christ and come in the name of another and not His own to continue all Christ's work in His name. Let all we who benefit from this know and understand that it could never have been possible for us unless the Holy Spirit, as well as Christ, had been willing to humble Himself to dwell in human beings. True He was never incarnated, nor was He made sin or crucified, but He is even now indwelling men and women for the glory of God. God so loved the world that He gave both His only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit that we should have eternal life, Christ to procure it, the Holy Spirit to bring it. God knew when He gave His Son that He would have to give the Holy Ghost also, for we could not have God's eternal life unless He gave the Holy Spirit. Let us worship Him that all three of them were more than willing for this, and let us rejoice in such unparalleled and undeserved love.

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