

Apprentice Institute Pre-Conference Dinner
September 22, 2011

Notes from the Dinner Talk by Dallas Willard

WHAT IS FORMATION IN CHRISTLIKENESS?

The outcome of Christlikeness is this: easy, routine, obedience to Christ.

“If you want to keep the rules, don’t try to keep the rules.” Become the kind of person who would keep them.

Apprenticeship to Jesus is the status (condition, place, rank) in which Christian Spiritual Formation occurs. In that STATUS you become transformed.

We are talking about CHARACTER transformation. One of the most serious problems for human beings. Achieving character is the standing problem of human civilization.

Galatians 5

“Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.” Galatians 5:16-17, 19-23

ISSUES

What is the Gospel?

The availability of the Kingdom of the heavens to anyone who will simply put their confidence in Jesus Christ. That’s all. Everything else in in that package.

So people say, “What does CSF have to do with the gospel?”

The greatest barrier to spiritual growth is a gospel that has no connection to discipleship.

IS SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION SALVATION?

If you think salvation is salvation from sin, it IS good news.

SO HOW DOES CHRIST SAVE US? Where does the cross fit into this?

“He saves us by paying the price we would have to pay for our sins”

That is a thin version of what is taught in the NT.

He saves us by living in us, by living with us, by being our teacher.

The secret of the ages: Christ IN you, the hope of glory.

The grace of God has appeared ... bringing SALVATION

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly.” (Titus 2:11-12)

HOW DO YOU CONVERT PEOPLE? EVANGELIZE?

How do we do it today?

We need to practice discipleship evangelism. And we need to give people opportunities to become disciples of Jesus. MANY have never had anyone invite them to be apprentices of Jesus.

Q&A