

HOLISTIC CHRISTIANITY--THE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL

In Christ we are blessed beyond measure:

1. In Christ, we have been saved by grace through faith apart from works, Eph. 2:8-10.
2. In Christ, we were given grace before Earth was even created, 2 Tim. 1:9.
3. In Christ, we were chosen before the Earth was created, Eph. 1:4.
4. In Christ, we are loved by God with an inseparable love, Rom. 8:38-39.
5. In Christ, we were redeemed and forgiven for all of our trespasses, Eph. 1:7.
6. In Christ, we received the perfect righteousness of Christ as He received our sins, 2 Cor. 5:21.
7. In Christ, we are blessed with every spiritual blessing, Eph. 1:3.

This is all such wonderful news. There is nothing like the matchless grace of God! However, this is only half of the good news--the vertical half of salvation. There is also the horizontal half (Eph 2:10; James 2:14-26), which is the outworking of the vertical half (Eph. 2:8-9).

A believer can enjoy the vertical half of salvation with God and still live under the power and influences of sin due to lack of living out salvation in the horizontal realm of sacrificially loving others.

One can feel absolutely wonderful about all of those vertical truths all day long, and yet still live selfishly without compassion for fellow man--be blind as a bat about loving our neighbors, including our enemies.

Let us not forget that two commandments that summarize the entire Christian life--sacrificial love for God and others--go together and are not to be separated. It is not an either/or but a both/and.

Let us press on to live a holistic Christian life where we live and thrive with God as well as with all human beings as we reach out with the love and compassion of God to all others. Let us live out His love by our lives, our words, and our actions--this is our unique calling as Christians.

In His Grace,

Pastor Don