



Gospel-Centered Life Class

Session III: Believing the Gospel

Bible Conversation

2 Peter 1:3-9

Believing the Gospel

At the root of the human condition is a struggle for _____
and

_____.

_____ is the biblical truth that God has not only forgiven our sin, but also credited to us Jesus' positive righteousness.

Romans 3:21-22

It is called "passive righteousness" because we do not have to labor for it. . . . It is not righteousness that we work for, but righteousness we receive by faith. This passive righteousness is a mystery that someone who does not know Jesus cannot understand. In fact, Christians do not completely understand it and rarely take advantage of it in their daily lives. . . . When there is any fear or our conscience is bothered, it is a sign that our "passive" righteousness is out of sight and Christ is hidden.

The person who wanders away from "passive" righteousness has no other choice but to live by "works" righteousness. If he does not depend on the work of Christ, he must depend on his own work. So we must teach and continually repeat the truth of this "passive" or "Christian" righteousness so that Christians continue to hold to it and never confuse it with "works" righteousness.

– Martin Luther

_____ is the biblical truth that God has welcomed us into his family as his own son and daughters by virtue of our union with Jesus.

Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:7

Exercise: Orphans vs. Children

The Orphan			The Son/Daughter
Lacks a vital daily intimacy with God			Feels freed from worry because of God's love for you
Anxious about friends, money, school, grades, etc.			Learning to live in a daily partnership with God
Feels as if no one cares about you			Not fearful of God
Lives on a success/fail basis			Feels forgiven and totally accepted
Needs to look good			A daily trust in God's sovereign plan for your life
Feels guilt and condemned			Prayer is a first resort
Struggles to trust things to God			Content in relationships b/c you are accepted by God
Has to fix your problems			Freedom from making a name for yourself
Not very teachable			Is teachable by others
Is defensive when accused of error or weakness			Open to criticism b/c you rest on Christ's perfection
Needs to be right			Able to examine your deeper motives
Lacks confidence			Able to take risks - even to fail
Feels discouraged and defeated			Encouraged by the Spirit working in you
Strong-willed with ideas, agendas, and opinions			Able to see God's goodness in dark times
Solution to failure: "Try harder"			Content with what Christ has provided
Has a critical spirit (complaining and bitterness)			Trusting less in self and more in the Holy Spirit

Tears others down			Aware of inability to fix life, people, and problems
A “competent analyst” of others’ weaknesses			Is able to freely confess your faults to others
Tends to compare yourself with others			Doesn’t always have to be right
Feels powerless to defeat the flesh			Does not gain value from man-made “props”
Needs to be in control of situations and others			Experiences more and more victory over the flesh
Looks for satisfaction in “positions”			Prayer is a vital, ongoing part of the day
Looks for satisfaction in “possessions”			Jesus is more and more the subject of conversation
Tends to be motivated by obligation and duty, not love			God truly satisfies your soul