

Get Involved

God calls Christians to be disciples by gathering to worship, getting involved in intentional community, and living a life of mission. Take a step forward in discipleship through:

- Community Groups**
Meet with a CG during the week in order to connect with others and grow in faith.
- Serving at Pacific Crossroads**
Help others connect with our church community each Sunday.
- Serving PCC Children and Youth**
Be a role model for our growing Children's and Youth ministries.
- Serving Los Angeles**
Provide care and support to LA's poor and marginalized through Hope for LA.
- Serving Abroad**
Support our global missions partners through short-term missions trips.

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

Reflections

Arguably the greatest 20th century theologian, Karl Barth attempted to redefine every facet of the Christian tradition in light of Jesus Christ, including our understanding of human sinfulness. Barth answers the question - what's wrong with humanity? - in terms of falsehood, pride and sloth.

Falsehood, denial of truth, is our root problem. Humans deny the knowledge that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus includes us and was for us by God's grace. Once we are exposed to this life-altering claim (my identity is found in Christ) we often react in pride and sloth.

In pride, we resist God's grace and try to justify our own existence. We deny our participation in Jesus' life and death. In our pride we promote ourselves and deny Christ's call to humble ourselves. This falsehood looks like self-aggrandizement. We try and inflate our own ego.

In sloth, we deny our participation in Christ's resurrection and ascension and reduce our glorious new calling to "going to church." In our sloth we subsume ourselves and deny Christ's call to victory. This falsehood looks like self-pity or self-loathing. We deflate ourselves.

Whether by self-assertion or self-abasement, we attempt to deny the knowledge of what is most true of us: we are established from all eternity in the person and work of Jesus Christ. All the warning passages of the Bible should be read as calling us back from pride and sloth to the true knowledge of God and ourselves.

Matt Jenson, from *The Gravity of Sin: Augustine, Luther, and Barth*

Sermon

Why Does a God Who Loves Us Warn Us?

Rankin Wilbourne

Scripture

Hebrews 2:1; 3:12-15; 6:1-6

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits. ⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

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