

A New Heart

Matt Chandler’s story

New affections

Perhaps you can see why it is astonishing to me that so many people try to define true Christianity in terms of decisions and not affections. Not that decisions are unessential. The problem is that they require so little transformation. Mere decisions are no sure evidence of a true work of grace in the heart. People can make “decisions” about the truth of God while their hearts are far from Him. - John Piper

A Famous Conflict

Peter’s background

Out of step with the Gospel

A Life Open to Critique

Humiliated and ... happy?

2 Peter 3:15 “..just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him”

Thoughts on cancel culture

Chris Harrison – The longtime host of ABC’s “The Bachelor” franchise decided to “step aside” after defending current contestant Rachael Kirkconnell when old photos surfaced of her attending an Old South antebellum party. “While I do not speak for Rachael Kirkconnell, my intentions were simply to ask for grace in offering her an opportunity to speak on her own behalf,” Harrison explained. “What I now realize I have done is cause harm by wrongly speaking in a manner that perpetuates racism, and for that I am so deeply sorry.” – *The Washington Times*

Somehow, Peter didn’t get canceled

Christ our righteousness

To the degree that Christ is your righteousness, you won’t be defensive when someone critiques you

“If any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him, for you are worse than he thinks you to be.” - Spurgeon

Law Motivation vs. Gospel Motivation

Law Motivation – getting your own righteousness

- Causes anxiety or superiority (fear or pride)
- Selfishness
- Hypocrisy

Gospel Motivation – resting in the righteousness of Christ

- Peace and humility
- True Servanthood
- Integrity
- Freedom

Questions for Personal Study

1. How has being a Christian changed your affections?
2. When was the last time you accepted critique without letting defensiveness overcome you?
3. What idols promise you standing before God?
4. Which is your normal motivation, law or Gospel? How do you know?