

# From Pharisee to Tax Collector

Wonderful Mercy Church, October 27, 2019

# The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14



Image courtesy Florida Institute for Instructional Technology. <https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/>

# The Pharisee's Error

- We are given no reason to believe the Pharisee is lying or exaggerating.
- “He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt.” (v. 9)
- Jesus is preaching the Gospel, but I hardly think it fair to expect the Pharisee to be onboard with Jesus. For the Pharisee there is no tension between law and grace; there is only the law.

# The Pharisee's Error

- Hosea 6:6
  - “For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.” (ESV)
- Micah 6:8
  - “No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” (NLT)

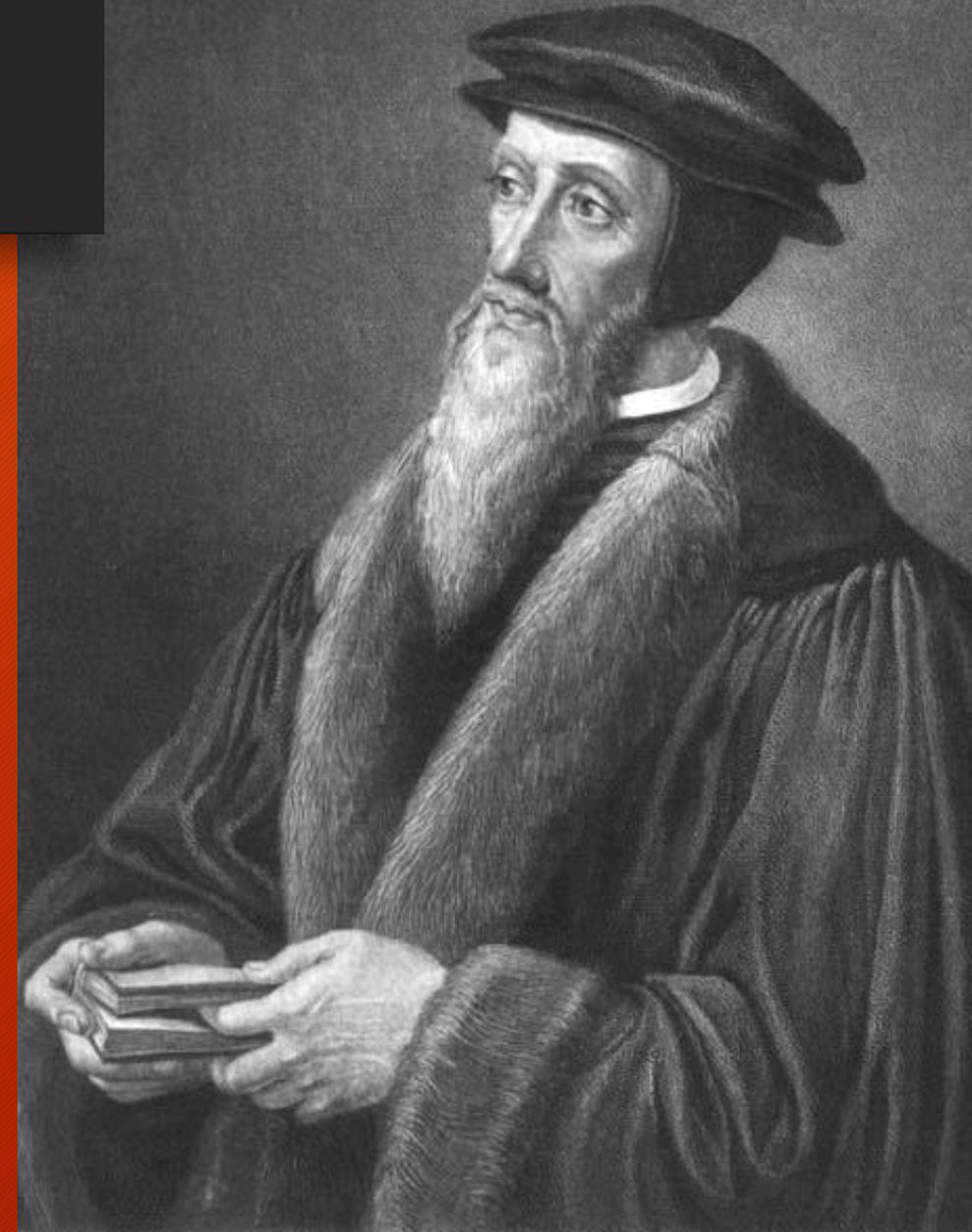
# The Pharisee's Error

- It is that state of our souls, not our words or actions that justify us before God.
- The Pharisee's central problem is that he does not know his own heart.

# The Importance of Knowing Ourselves

“Nearly all the wisdom which we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But, while joined by many bonds, which one precedes and brings forth the other is not easy to discern.”

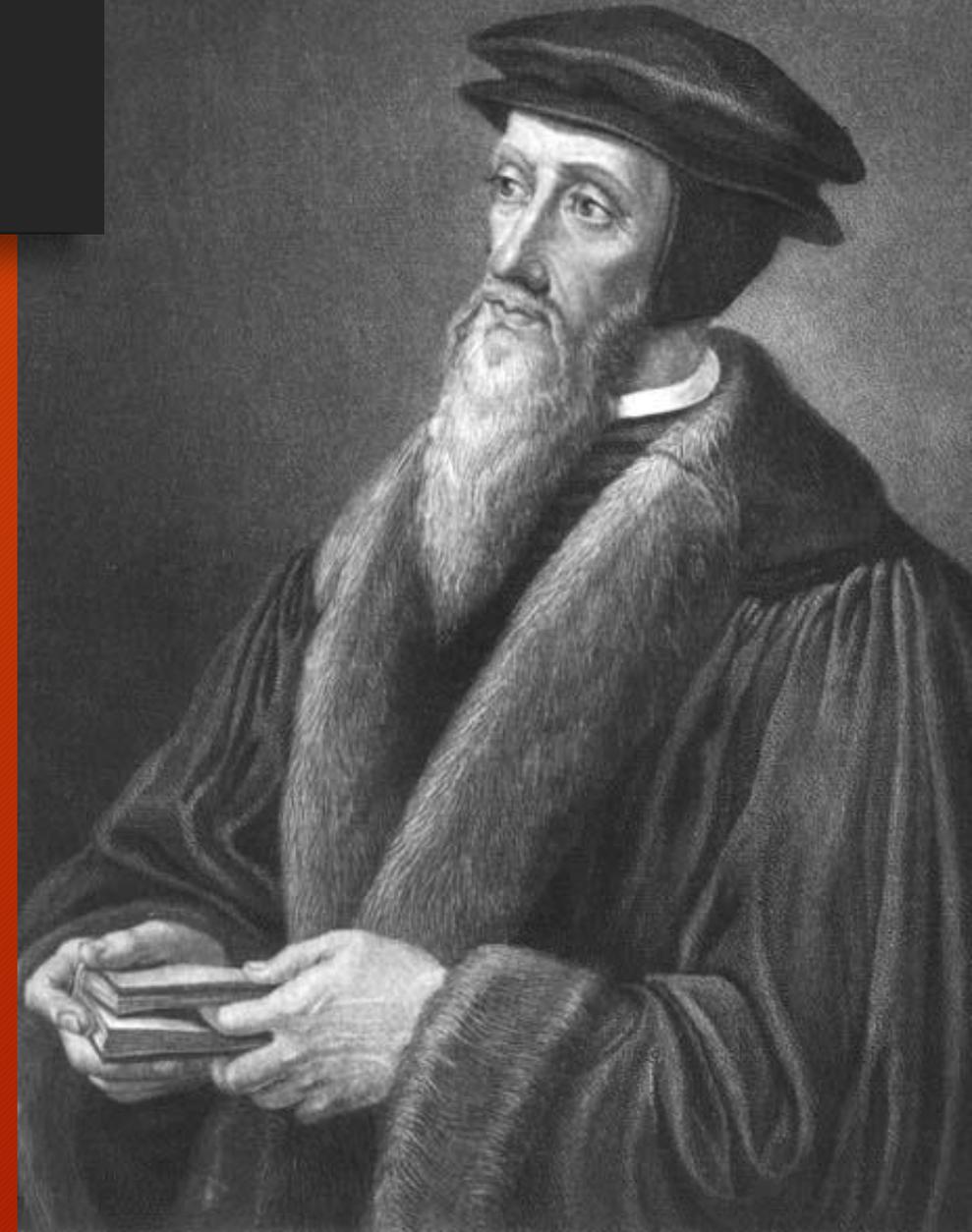
*John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion*



# The Importance of Knowing Ourselves

Know  
Yourself

Know  
God



# Knowing Ourselves in Community

- Graeme's teaching, "Keep on Loving Each Other"
- "If Our Starting Place is Not the Father... We'll end up impressed with our own goodness and do-gooding" (Pr Graeme, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019)

The Secret to Not Taking Offense

Avoid Relationships!

# Knowing Ourselves in Community

- Hiding in my cocoon of isolation was keeping me from knowing the Father better.
- I began to get a picture of myself that I didn't like at all. I began to realize how little love and compassion there really was in me.
- My understanding of myself was built on wishful thinking and turned out to be quite wrong.
- Outside of community I can go along believing all sorts of nonsense about myself. In community my delusions are quickly stripped away.

# Knowing Ourselves in Community

“Love is cultivated only in close soul relationships. We can probably learn something about love in interactions with strangers, but the transforming work of becoming the great lovers that Christ desires us to be demands the grist of more intimate relationships. It is in soul friendships that we encounter the greatest possibilities for progress in the school of love. Journeying together brings opportunities for discovering the magnitude of our narcissism and developing a heart of genuine love.”

*Benner, David G.. Sacred Companions: The Gift of Spiritual Friendship & Direction . InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.*

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