

Heart Trouble in Prayerland

April 22, 2018

Wonderful Mercy Church

1 John 3:20-22 PASSION

“Whenever our hearts make us feel guilty and remind us of our failures, we know that God is much greater and more merciful than our conscience, and he knows everything there is to know about us. ²¹ My delightfully loved friends, when our hearts don’t condemn us, we have a bold freedom to speak face-to-face with God. ²² And whatever we ask of him we receive, because we keep his commands. And by our beautiful intentions we continue to do what brings pleasure to him.”

Heart Troubles

- Accusation and condemnation are prayer killers
- **1 John 3:21** PASSION
“...when our hearts don’t condemn us, we have a bold freedom to speak face-to-face with God.”
- A condemning heart is one that robs a son or daughter of intimacy with God

The Accuser in Scripture

- **Ephesians 4:27** PASSION
“Don’t give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you!”
- **Ephesians 6:11** PASSION
“Put on God’s complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser!”

The Accuser in Scripture

- **Colossians 2:15a** PASSION
“Then Jesus made a public spectacle of all the powers and principalities of darkness, stripping away from them every weapon and all their spiritual authority and power to accuse us.”

The Accuser in Scripture

- **Revelation 12:10** PASSION

Then I heard a triumphant voice in heaven proclaiming: “Now salvation and power are set in place, and the kingdom reign of our God and the ruling authority of his Anointed One are established. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who relentlessly accused them day and night before our God, has now been defeated—cast out once and for all!”

The Disease and The Cure

- If accusation and condemnation are the disease, what is the cure? The mercy of God
- **1 John 3:20a** PASSION
“God is much greater and more merciful than our conscience...”
- The human heart is a trickster fox sometimes; it accuses us wrongly, because it “is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”
(Jeremiah 17:9)

John 10:11-13 PASSION

“I am the Good Shepherd who lays down my life as a sacrifice for the sheep. ¹²⁻¹³ But the worker who serves only for wages is not a real shepherd. Because he has no heart for the sheep he will run away and abandon them when he sees the wolf coming. And then the wolf mauls the sheep, drags them off, and scatters them.”



“The message of Jesus is mercy. For me, and I say this with humility, it is the Lord’s strongest message.” – Pope Francis

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- We need mercy if we are to persist in prayer
- **1 John 5:14-15** VOICE
“We live in the bold confidence that God hears our voices when we ask for things that fit His plan. ¹⁵ And if we have no doubt that He hears our voices, we can be assured that He moves in response to our call.”
- Accusation and condemnation are prayer killers precisely because they disable that “bold confidence”



We have more confidence that a waiter named Jesus, who says, “Anything you need, just ask!” is going to come through for us than we do that Jesus, who says, “Ask anything in my name,” will come through.

The Desires of Your Heart

- **Psalm 37:4** NASB
“Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.”
- When we hear the promises of the Word — “whatever we ask of him we receive” and “he will give you the desires of your heart” — we immediately go to a rules orientation: what do I have to do to get it?
- But what if being a son or a daughter is enough?

The Desires of Your Heart

- Hebrew word for DELIGHT means “to be soft, delicate;” here it points us to the tenderness of personal friendship that moves the heart
- What if this morning is about Father healing our heart troubles with his mercy so when it comes to prayer there are no limits on us?

The Mercy of God

- **Nehemiah 9:28** NLT96

“But when all was going well, your people turned to sin again...Yet whenever your people cried to you again for help, you listened once more from heaven. In your wonderful mercy, you recued them repeatedly!”

- **Romans 8:33** PASSION

Who then would dare to accuse those whom God has chosen in love to be his? God himself is the judge who has issued his final verdict over them—“Not guilty!”

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