

Good News for Anxious Christians

WEEK 3 OBEDIENCE (CH. 3- *WHY YOU DON'T HAVE TO "LET GOD TAKE CONTROL"*)

"Even the word "morality" is dropping out of our vocabulary" (p. 37)

What is morality? How do you teach morality?

How do/did you learn morality?

How does morality dictate how you act?

"The truth is that you don't have to know whether you're really letting God do it [work in you], because in fact you're always the one who's doing it." (p. 39)

If this is true, then how does God (Spirit) work?

What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit?

What is your responsibility in the relationship?

Are there times when this is confusing?

When was a time that you were absolutely aware of the Holy Spirit's working within you?

Cary explains that our responsibility is being accountable to God. Another way of seeing this is stewarding the gifts we have been given. (p. 38-42)

What does stewardship mean in this context of being responsible?

Can you be a steward of good morals? How?

Do you tend to see God's work with us a both/and or an either/or proposition?

We are given good work to do by God's command (Cary's example of the Parable of the Talents – read Matt.25:14-30). The Bible, as a book of life, gives instruction on how to live lives accountable to God for His good purposes and for His glory, and at the same time reveals our human nature, but it is not always specific in identifying our individual personalities nor step-by-step how-to details.

How do you identify the talents God has given you?

How do you know what God wants you to do with those talents?

What if you make a mistake?

What if you do well? What does that mean for future investments?

Is it better to make mistakes or do well with talents?

Can we do well with God's talents, take responsibility for our actions, and at the same time be humble?

One of the challenging consequences within society is that we tend to raise and praise perfectionists (the legal system, the education system, etc.), because the institutions typically are structured to keep individuals from making mistakes by applying hardships or increased constraints.

Is this a Biblical model?

Does this foster obedience or hinder it?

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Something I want to remember...

Something I learned...

Something that was clarified...

Something I don't understand...

Something I don't agree with...