

Contagious But Controversial Jesus

Showdown with Jesus in the Gospel of John

You Didn't Choose Jesus! Part 2

Exalting God's Electing Love

John 6:35-48

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, July 17, 2011

I. A Right Understanding of the Doctrine of Election Gives You a Joyful Security that Can Never be Shaken

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away."

It's not about how hard you're trying to hold on to Jesus. It's about how committed Jesus is to holding onto you. And the rock of election is the rock on which Jesus stands as He holds onto you for life!

John 10:27-28 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

II. A Right Understanding of the Doctrine of Election Gives You a Constant Fuel for Praise and Gratitude!

"Many mysteries surround the doctrine of election, and theologians are unwise to systematize it in such a way that no puzzles, enigmas or loose ends are left. At the same time... election is an indispensable foundation of Christian worship, in time and eternity. It is the essence of worship to say: 'Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name be glory.' (Psalm 115:1) If we were responsible for our own salvation, either in whole or in part, we would be justified in singing our own praises and blowing our own trumpet in heaven. But such a thing is inconceivable." John Stott, *The Message of Romans*, p. 268

Ephesians 1:3-14

The doctrine of election is a call to worship and should bring us to our knees in HUMILITY... and GRATITUDE.

"Perhaps one reason why so few are motivated to worship God with fervor is that we have reduced God to a slightly larger version of ourselves. He can be comprehended by our logic. He works within the bounds of our rules and reasons. He is so much like us that we see no real reason to worship Him. It is pathetic but true. What is the antidote? A God who is sovereign over the souls of wicked, undeserving sinners, including me... I realized I was displaced from the center of my universe and that God was enthroned there.

What practical difference does the doctrine of election make? It will make you into a worshiper. When you come to realize that the God who is there is not subject to your desires, that He is sovereign over your eternity, and when you realize the greatness of His mercy and grace, you will begin to long for genuine worship, worship that prostrates you and exalts God... Your soul will crave and demand worship that is God-centered, that is filled with high praise... When once you grasp the greatness of the sovereign God, your worship will be transformed because you will be transformed hereafter to have the perspective of one who lives on his knees. **When Comes Home**, Terry L. Johnson, P. 27 & 28

1 Peter 2:9-10 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

III. A Right Understanding of the Doctrine of Election Gives You an Ongoing and Powerful Means to Keep Killing Your Greatest Enemy – Pride

I Corinthians 1:26-29

You only made a decision because God made a decision first, and your decision flows out of God's decision.

"God intentionally designed salvation so that no man can boast of it. He didn't merely arrange it so that boasting would be discouraged or kept to a minimum. He planned it so that boasting would be absolutely excluded. Election does precisely that and comprehensively that!" Mark Webb, "What Difference Does it Make?" *Reformation and Revival Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Winter 1994, p. 52

IV. A Right Understanding of the Doctrine of Election Gives You a Greater Freedom to Love Others Who Don't Know Christ

Jesus Christ commissioned us before He left, and that commission hasn't changed!

Matt. 28:18-19 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 10:14-15, 17 ¹⁴ "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'... ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

If you realize there is nothing you have done or can do to earn God's choosing of you, it changes the way you look at other people around you that don't know God. Gone is any sense of superiority... because you realize you're an OBJECT of mercy... and that it's not what you did but what God has done!

1 Timothy 1:12-17

When you know you're an object of mercy, you see other people through different eyes. And you have hope for everyone. Because of election God is able to save to the uttermost.