

Footstep #48 Table Talks – Christian Life 1540

DCXCVII.

A Christian's worshipping is not the external, hypocritical mask that our spiritual friars wear, when they chastise their bodies, torment and make themselves faint, with ostentatious fasting, watching, singing, wearing hair shirts, scourging themselves, etc. Such worshipping God desires not.

DCXCVIII.

'Tis a great blindness of people's hearts that they cannot accept of the treasure of grace presented unto them. Such people are we, that though we are baptized, have Christ, with all his precious gifts, faith, the sacraments, his Word, all which we confess to be holy, yet we can neither say nor think that we ourselves are holy; we deem it too much to say, we are holy; whereas the name Christian is far more glorious and greater than the name holy.

Why is it difficult for many people who belong to God through their baptism (Christians, Christ-Like humans) to accept the fact that in God's love and authority they are HOLY? In 1 Peter 1:15-16 we are told ***“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written*** (in Leviticus 11:44 and in Leviticus 19:2, and again in Leviticus 20:7): ***‘Be holy, because I am holy.’***

Worship is an internal experience of the heart and not an external action. Luther had it right - our religious life is powerful because it is a celebration of what God is doing for us every day. Yes, we are humble sinners **and** bold saints. In baptism, we are claimed by Christ, our name is listed as a registered citizen of heaven, and we are set apart for doing good in God's world. Luther said it so clearly above that our perception of life is blinded or out of focus.

Luther's theology of the cross shows us two sides of life. When we look at the front of the cross we see death, torture, pain, and the price of sin. We see our jealousy, fits of anger, lust, and self-centered nature. When we walk behind the cross, we see the Holy Spirit, we see an empty cross, we see the gift of love = LIFE AND ETERNAL LIFE!

So, agree with Luther and celebrate your forgiven, perfected and HOLY LIFE by talking with God today!