

December 6, 2023

Christian Ethics and Family Practice are Derived from Christ's Incarnation

Goal for This Week

To see how our ethics and family practice are derived from our theological reflections on anthropology and soteriology so that we may be transformed to look more like Christ, from one degree of glory to another (Romans 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18).

Review from Past Weeks

Theological Reflection – _____

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our _____ and _____.

Doing Theological Anthropology is to _____ on what God says about _____. It seeks to understand how God made humanity, how God judges' humanity, and how God restores humanity. Remember, theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, which is why we must consider God primarily even when we think about humanity.

Doing Soteriology is to _____ on what God says about _____. It seeks to understand how God saves humanity through the death of Christ on the cross. Again, since theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, we must consider God primarily when we think about salvation. We are saved by God, from God, and for God.

Christ's Incarnation: God's Final Revelation – Christ is the Last Prophet

Hebrews 1:1-3 – "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, (2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (3) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..."

Theologically reflecting on God by looking at Christ – Who is Christ based on Hebrews 1:1-3?

December 6, 2023

Theological Reflection is Transformational

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 – “Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses’ face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, (8) will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? (9) For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. (10) Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. (11) For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

(12) Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, (13) not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. (14) But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. (15) Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. (16) But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. (17) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (18) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image, from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

What is the ministry of the Spirit?

How does this passage inform the way we are to interpret Old Testament passages?

Why is the ministry of righteousness permanent like verse 11 says?

What was the purpose of the veil? Why use it?

What transforms us according to verse 18? How do we do this?

Why are we being transformed from one degree of glory to another?

December 6, 2023

What does a transformational life look like that comes from theological reflection (looking to Christ)? How do we look to Christ?

Ephesians 3:14-19 – “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, (15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, (16) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 4:1-3 – “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (3) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

How do you become more humble, gentle, patient, loving, and peaceful?

The more you look at Christ the more you will be transformed from one degree of glory to another.

Implications:

How does our theological reflection on anthropology inform our ethics and family practice?

How does our theological reflection on soteriology inform our ethics and family practice?

What is the ultimate purpose in doing theological reflection?

December 6, 2023

Preparation for Next Week:

Read Article – <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-importance-of-theology-and-theological-understanding/>

(Attached to this document.)

Further Resources:

Akin, Daniel L. *A Theology For The Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Chapman, Gary. *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication and Intimacy*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2003.

Danylak, Barry. *A Biblical Theology of Singleness*. Cambridge, UK: Grove, 2007.

Keller, Timothy and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. New York: Penguin Books, 2016.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2nd Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.