

or taste it or experience it with any of our senses. If it were a make-believe hole, nothing would go through it, like my finger. But a real hole is kind of a contradiction. It is real but yet it isn't. I can't take the hole out of the donut and place it in front of you for you to examine it.

a) Only in connection .

Now listen really closely to what I am about to say: The hole exists **only in relationship to the donut**. The hole exists **only in connection to the donut**. The hole exists *only* if the donut exists. If you take away the donut, the hole no longer exists.

Now, stay with me, don't lose me now. This donut represents the Sinless Moral and Spiritual perfection of Jesus Christ. He is absolutely perfect, that is, sinlessly, purely, perfect. He is everything that you and I cannot be. The hole represents my perfection, and yours, in relationship to His. My perfection is not a perfection of actions or goodness. It is not moral perfection or sinlessness. It is my perfection and it is only in relationship to Him. When I got saved, His perfection was granted to me. Now it is my standing before God. Apart from the perfection of Jesus Christ I have no perfection. I am a sinner, a self-centered, flesh pleasing, greedy, lustful, lying, sinner. My perfection, like the donut hole is real, but only in relation to His perfection.

Colossians 2:10 reminds us we are complete, or perfect through our union with Christ, Who is the head.

b) Only in standing .

So, understand, our perfection is not in sinlessness, but in standing. It is given, apportioned, awarded, bequeathed, conferred, granted, hand out, imparted, etc., not on the basis of my perfection, but on the basis of His perfection.

3) The Perfection LIKE Christ.

But there is another Biblical dimension to perfection, another meaning of perfect. This dimension or definition is not about our standing or our imputed perfection. It is the perfection *LIKE* Christ. This meaning is more about what we are to be or become. It is about our actions and our conduct

a) The level of maturity .

In Greek, the word translated "perfect" in Matthew 5 is "teleios (tel-lai-os)." "Teleios" appears 48 times in the New Testament, and is often translated, especially in the early English versions of the Scriptures, as "perfect." The root word "**tel-os**" means "one who has accomplished the intended goal." If something accomplishes what it is designed to do, it is said to be perfect, that is, "teleios." So "teleios" is often translated as "mature" or "complete." And for a Christian mature equals mature or complete in the faith.

So then what does it mean to be "mature" in the faith? It means to live in such a way that you and others can see that the seed has been planted and grown to the point that you now bear fruit, or act like Jesus Christ.

In our text today, Jesus gives us some examples of the maturity perfection like Christ produces. He talks about loving your enemies, and praying for those who hate you. Why should we do that? That is the nature of God our Father. And when we do those things we show that we have matured to be like Him.

If you only love those who are nice to you it does not show that you are mature. Anyone will do that. It takes maturity to rise above petty disagreements and resentments. And God our Father has modeled this type of love for us. The Father loved us when we were His enemies. 1 John 4:16 expands on this. And that is just one of the ways that we can be mature like our Father in Heaven. Luke 6:35 tells us to be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Maturity means being merciful so that

we are like Christ. We are told in John 1:5-9 that "God is light." Jesus taught in Matthew 5:16 to let our light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. We are called to be mature to become like our Heavenly Father.

b) The level of judgement .

We are not going to be held to the Perfection *OF* Christ. We cannot claim any credit for the Perfection *IN* Christ. It is a perfection we did not earn. It is given or granted. But the Perfection *LIKE* CHRIST... the maturity of living *LIKE* CHRIST is the perfection to which we are to strive. The perfection *LIKE* Christ is the level of perfection by which we will be judged.

Conclusion

Are you growing in your maturity? Are you becoming more and more *LIKE* Christ? Let me sum it up for you. We WORSHIP the perfection *OF* Christ. We praise Him for His perfection. We CELEBRATE our perfection *IN* Christ. We thank God that He has clothed us in the perfection and righteousness of His Son. We glory in the standing that we have before God because we are *IN* Christ. We CONFESS our failure to live up to the level of MATURITY to which we have been called, and we BESEECH God to help us to be MATURE *LIKE* Christ.

Become More Like Christ!

Oriental Cults

1 John 2:20-26 pm

Last Sunday night we talked about how to identify a cult. Tonight we look at some examples of Oriental cults and their practices and teachings.

1. Hinduism

- a. Beliefs concerning God .
- b. Beliefs concerning Scripture .
- c. Beliefs concerning the church .
- d. Other significant beliefs .

2. Buddhism

- a. Beliefs concerning God .
- b. Beliefs concerning Scripture .
- c. Beliefs concerning the church .
- d. Other significant beliefs .

3. Other Mystic Religions

- a. Beliefs concerning God .
- b. Beliefs concerning Scripture .
- c. Beliefs concerning the church .
- d. Other significant beliefs .

Proverbs 30:6!

Know Who You Are

In his book "Growing in Grace," Bob George tells the following illustration.

When you first met "J.E.," you could tell he was a very angry man. In fact, at age 54 he'd been an angry person for many years. In a Bible study that night, many questions had been raised in his mind. Talking with the leader afterward, J.E. said, "I asked Jesus to be my Savior when I was 9 years old. But nobody ever taught me about who I am in Christ, that I'm accepted by God or that Christ lives in me."

"What were you taught?" the Bible study leader asked. "Where I grew up, we heard all the time about how perfect Christ was and about how we should learn to live like Him – if we didn't, God would judge us." J.E. went on, "It didn't take me long, I'd say in my teen years, to figure out that I was never going to cut it. So I gave up trying. I guess I've been living in guilt and running from

God ever since. Off and on through the years I tried to go back to church, but I just got more guilt piled on top of me. I've sat under so many teachers who made me fearful that I was afraid to turn in any direction because God was going to get me. This is the first Bible study I've ever attended that gave me any hope," J.E. concluded.

At that point, J.E. was 54 years old. That means, even though he had been born again through trusting Jesus Christ at a young age, he had spent the majority of his years running away from God. Tragically, his experience isn't that unusual. Thousands of people who sincerely responded to the Gospel message spend years thrashing around trying to make it work, but without success. In fact, I believe the reason so many Christians struggle in living the Christian life is their lack of understanding their Identity in Christ.

If this is true, surely it affects the church. In his book, "The Family of God," Batsell Barrett Baxter says the following:

There are some who think of the church as an organization like other organizations. It is true that the church is an organization, but it is not primarily an organization. Rather it is a new way of life. Those who have the view that being a part of the church is like being a member of a lodge, a luncheon club, a political party, or even a business are seriously mistaken. Such people feel that they should give to the church the same kind of support and loyalty which they give to these other organizations. It becomes my church, as it is 'my club, or lodge, or party, or team.' The Christian's loyalty to Church, however, should be unique, for in reality it is a loyalty to Christ and His way of life. The church is like no other institution on earth and a person's membership in the church is like no other membership which he may sustain. The church is more like a vibrant, living organism, than it is like a cold, structured organization...

Some make the mistake of thinking that the church exists for the entertainment and enjoyment of its members. On the contrary, the church exists in order that its members may have an intimate relationship with God through Christ Jesus, as well as a closer relationship with mankind.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, July 17, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting.....Noon

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 20

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 21

O Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, July 23

Women's Bible Study.....9:00 am

Sunday, July 24, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters, Ken Kirkpatirck, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice
Evening Worship.....6:30 pm
Wednesday, July 27
Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study 6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Thursday, July 28
R Team.....6:30 pm
Saturday, July 30
Movie Event at FBC, Savannah

Up-Coming Events.....

July 17 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon
— Food Pantry Collection Day
July 21 — Food Pantry Day
July 23 — Women's Bible Study 9:00 am
July 24 — Diversicare 2:30 pm
July 25-29 — SJBA Children's Camp at Grand Oaks
July 30 — Movie Event at First Baptist Church, Savannah, MO 6pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you there.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting **Today at Noon**

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we conduct the business of the church.

Today is... Food Pantry Collection Day!

You may place your
non-perishable items in the basket in the hallway
at any time.
Thank You!

**Diversicare Nursing Home
July 24, 2016 at 2:30 pm**

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

**Movie Event
First Baptist Church
Savannah, MO
July 30 at 6:00 pm**

...with special appearance by
Executive Director and Producer Dean Haskins.

Children of the Day By Beth Moore

New Women's Bible Study beginning Saturday July 23rd in church basement at 9:00 am. Please sign up on the bulletin board near the entryway. (If Saturday is not a good day for you and you would like the option of another day, please sign the second sheet on the bulletin board and indicate which day and time would work for you.) We hope to have a full basement on July 23!

For the Record-

Attendance: July 10, 2016

Sunday School.....	51
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	54
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	58
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night	9
Wednesday Night	8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 2,398.19

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

July Counting Team:

Fred Kerns and Jordan Lane

July Van Driver:

George Burgess
Call 232-3747 **before 8 am**

July Member Birthdays:

02... Mary Sharp
05... Kathryn Beavers
15... Bill Schottel
17... Betty Anslinger
20... Dorothy Post
23... Flora McKahan
24... Allan Lane
26... Jack Conard
26... Annette Schottel
30... Bill Haskins

July Anniversaries

Don and Mary Sharp

July 3, 1970

Gary and Sharon Yarbrough

July 8, 1978

Don and Marcia Hart

July 15, 1973

Larry and Flora McKahan

July 29, 1966

Prayer Requests ...

Nellie Reynolds—heart condition

Betty Campbell—healing

Pat Puckett—eyes

Marcia Hart's Family

Audrey Dugan—recovery

Tim Izer and Family

Sue Higgins—regain strength

Jim Winans, surgery recovery

Alicia McKinnon

Dakota Duty, recovery

Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter

Children's Camp

LoLeta Middleton—strength

Maxine and George Ferbert—strength

Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew

Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris Richardson's sisters

Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister

Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew

Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health

Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist

Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle

Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan

Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
