



*"You will know them by their fruits." Mt. 7:16 ..*

## A Better Perspective on Consecration and Repentance

Yes, I understand that both of these are often heart-wrenching, not to mention, sometimes cruel and painful. The mind often interprets anything painful or inconvenient as "punishment" and therefore unjust. But in fact that is just not so. Lancing a boil or removing a bandage on a wound are certainly painful procedures, but they are in fact kindnesses that prevent far greater suffering later on. It is just that we naturally have a myopic perspective that looks at the very short term.

So it is with repentances and/or consecrations: we spread our very guts out before Him and with great pain cast off something which we have really counted as part of ourselves, even though we have been made to know that it has been dragging us down towards shame and spiritual death.

With consecrations it is sometimes even more difficult because the offending part is even more something which may be misinterpreted as "just being human".

Yes, there is a consensus out there that says, "We all suffer from failings such as occasional anger. Bouts of self-centredness are not uncommon even in the best of us, whether we admit it or not." This universal perspective not only admits imperfection, but often goes further and actually laughingly celebrates it, "You dog, you!".

The fact of the matter is quite different. Yes, most believers (and those who are yet lost) suffer with hearts so hindered that they do not naturally "turn the other cheek" or other positive responses that Jesus would have had. But not all of us. Some manage some of these some of the time. But those few of us who are in His Rest all testify that we have been given hearts that have been wholly made new so that all of these responses come quite naturally.

This latter little-known fact changes the whole perspective on the question, "what is human?". Those of us in His Rest would say that to be fully human one needs to be made to be fully in harmony with the divine; for only in that condition can one have a heart that is able to respond "humanely" -in a manner that displays a beautiful human civility rather than exposing a humiliating sub-human response we would rather hide in shame.

<b>Majority Response</b>	<b>Natural Response of Those in His Rest</b>
Anger and retaliation to injury	Forgiveness with communication and prayer
Wounded by insult	Tender heart reaches out to the reviler

Majority Response	Natural Response of Those in His Rest
Head swells from praise	Lowly heart, gives God the glory
A life of acquisitiveness and self-interest	A life of devotion to God and selfless giving
When mistaken - “white” lie to save face	Will simply say “Oh, I am sorry”

We sometimes hear the phrase, “In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king”. While this may seem to be logical, in actual fact, in the land of the blind, nobody has heard of or even appreciates the value of sight, so a man with one eye would be a freak there. And if he tried to use that eye to help others, he would soon gain a reputation as a trouble-maker, and that eye might be surgically removed “for his own good” -unless he quickly got a job as a freak in a circus! So it is with a man whose heart is not hindered before God, but is set free in His Rest to be pure and full of Holy fruits from Him:

“As preachers of the gospel of Jesus, do not expect worldly honors: these Jesus Christ neither took to himself, nor gave to his disciples. If you *remain* faithful, you will have that honor that comes from God: his Spirit will say in your hearts, “Well done, good and faithful servants.” Instead of receiving the honor that comes from men, you may possibly be despised, defamed, and persecuted. For the laws of Christ condemn a vicious world, and gall it to revenge; and as the religion of Christ gives no quarter to vice, so the vicious ( “vice-ous?” ) will give no quarter to that religion. Do not wonder, therefore, if you should be mocked, insulted, and abused: “if they have persecuted me,” said Jesus, they will also persecute you.” This the primitive disciples found: but they tell us that, far from being discouraged on this account, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name’s sake,” Acts v, 41. His true ministers have ever found the same spirit in the unconverted. You have read of the persecutions of the primitive Christians; and you have also read of the many holy men, bishops, ministers, and others, who have lost their lives in this country, when lawless power, false religion, blind zeal, and brutish bigotry prevailed: but these blessed martyrs all died in triumph – they glorified God in the fires; and, when consuming at the stake in the raging flames, they possessed the highest consolation of God, and rejoiced that ever they were born! Should you be ever called to bear the same testimony, you will doubtless find the same grace and support.” Adam Clarke P. 8 “Clavis Biblica”



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