

The Christian's Imperfections

Jas. 3:2

Introduction:

- A. Sinless perfection of Christians is not a Bible doctrine (Jas. 3:2; 1 Jno. 1:8-10).
- B. Relative perfection of Christians is a Bible doctrine.
 - 1. "Perfect" is sometimes relative (Heb. 9:11; Acts 18:26; 24:22) – "more" shows degrees.
 - 2. "Perfect" is often limited to context (Matt. 5:48; 19:21; Phil. 3:12, 15; Jas. 2:22)
 - a. "Perfection" by supplying missing part or element without regard to flawless quality of part.
 - b. Hence, "complete", "full grown," "mature," etc.
- C. Acceptance of our own imperfections should produce four important results in our lives.

Discussion:

I. Humility under God

- A. The more we accept imperfections, the more humble we become before God.
 - 1. We will give God credit for spiritual good (1 Cor. 1:29-31; 4:7).
 - 2. We are saved by and stand in the power of God, not own perfection (1 Cor. 15:1; 1 Jno. 1:7)
 - 3. Paul gave God credit for his salvation and work (1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:9, 10)
- B. The more we accept imperfections, the more submissive we become to God's will (Jas. 4:6,7)
 - 1. In order to be saved.
 - 2. In order to stay saved.
- C. The more we accept imperfections, the more successful we become in correcting others. (Gal. 6:1)

II. Trust in God

- A. We must trust in God for completeness, not ourselves (Col. 2:9, 10).
- B. We must trust in God to be able to stand in "that day." (2 Tim. 1:8-12) – still must do our part (v. 13).
- C. We must trust in God for help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

III. Improvement in Life

- A. Recognition of imperfections should spur a greater effort toward perfection (Phil. 3:12-15)
 - 1. Will not be condemned for not reaching absolute perfection in this life.
 - 2. Will be condemned for not going toward perfection (Heb. 6:1-6)
- B. Recognition of imperfections makes the command to grow ever-relevant (2 Pet. 3:18).

IV. Determination to Overcome

- A. "Nobody is perfect" is no license for permissiveness (Rom. 6:1, 16; 1 John 2:1)
- B. "Nobody is perfect" is not reason to drop our guard against sin.
 - 1. Paul recognized this (1 Cor. 9:27).
 - 2. We either struggle to overcome, our sin will overcome us. (Heb. 3:13)
- C. "Nobody is perfect" is not reason to hold on to confessed sin (1 John 1:9).

Conclusion:

- A. Imperfection is neither reason for apathy or despair – fight imperfections – trust in God.
- B. Imperfection makes us need the blood of Christ – alien (cf. Acts 22:16) – Christian (1 Jno. 1:9).