Responding To Truth

Long Beach Alliance Church August 17, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

~1 Peter 1:14-16 (ESV)

1) The Foundation For Our Response

- A) Faith in Jesus Christ results in justification (declared righteous by God, Romans 3:23-24) of the believer, providing a definitive position of eternal salvation (8:28-30) and Christ-centered security (8:38-39).
- B) Considering this, is "progressive sanctification" (the process of being "conformed to the image of Christ, Romans 8:29) even necessary? What is the primary motivation for living a holy life, especially at times when you don't really feel like it?
- C) Why should we "be holy?" The simple answer is, because God is holy (1 Peter 1:14-16). God's holiness is His separateness, his "other-ness" from everyone and everything else. God is infinitely good and righteous. He is self-existent, complete, pure, full, infinite, perfect.
- D) God has placed His Spirit in you (Ephesians 1:13-14). The Spirit of Christ is in you (Romans 8:9-11). When we are adopted into God's family, He takes residence in our lives, and begins His ongoing process of transforming your life by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17-20)!

2) Listening To The Voice Of The Spirit

- A) There are many distracting and tempting voices in our lives, and especially in our heads (1 Peter 5:6-9). As Christ-followers, we are in a process of responding to the Spirit's voice of truth (John 14:23-26).
- B) Intentionally read God's Word and engage God's voice through active response in prayer (1 Timothy 4:1-5). Pray the Scripture in(to) your life (e.g. Psalm 42). God still speaks, are you listening (Hebrews 1:1-2)?