

Ephesians 2013-079 and 080

Review...

(c) As the number of doctrinal memories increase, the number of divine viewpoint thoughts also increase. This results in the formation of doctrinal rationales. These doctrinal rationales are applied to our experience through the function of the faith-rest drill. The same faith-rest drill that claims the promises of God takes these doctrinal rationales and applies them to our experience.

(d) When the rate of learning exceeds the rate of forgetting, the believer advances in his spiritual life under the function of the spiritual skills. When the rate of forgetting exceeds the rate of learning, there is a rapid decline in the function of your very own spiritual life.

(3) Problem Solving. Problem solving devices are a grace gift from God which replace human viewpoint solutions, such as: psychology, defense mechanisms, and other things that remove the believer from the reality of God's grace.

(4) Decision Making. Decision making is precisely correct procedure in the utilization of doctrinal facts and relating them to the function of the problem solving devices.

(5) Creativity. This is originality in thought and expression of thought. For the believer, this is the recovery of Bible doctrine from the written page of the word of God. Many doctrines have been rejected, suppressed, distorted, twisted, so that they often remain obscured for many generations. Creativity includes the effective and powerful presentation of each truth through the filling of the Holy Spirit.

(6) Awareness. Awareness is the application of metabolized doctrine through the function of the ten problem solving devices deployed on the FLOT line of the soul. Awareness is having knowledge in the stream of consciousness, being informed, knowledgeable, and alert about things around you. Awareness wades through all the pressures and opposition to Bible doctrine with concentration, self-motivation, accurate spiritual values to continue advancing toward the objective of spiritual maturity and the glorification of God. Awareness becomes alert and operational, when the believer has a personal sense of destiny.

Awareness rejects self-defense mechanisms. Awareness is a part of true happiness in life. Awareness is spiritual perspective of life. Awareness has to do with your thoughtfulness of others and relating to others apart from the function of the sin nature.

Skipping ahead.....

H. Grace versus Arrogance.

1. Antecedent Arrogance or The Function of the Arrogance Skills.

a. Antecedent arrogance occurred in eternity past with the fall of Lucifer, son of the morning.

(1) Satan's motivation of arrogance is recorded in [Isa 14:14](#), "I will make myself like the Most High God." All precedence for the arrogance skills and for the sins of the arrogance complex originate from the prehistoric revolution of Lucifer, who is known to us as Satan or the Devil.

(2) In [Ezek 28:14-17](#), we have a detailed account of the original function of arrogance. "You were the anointed cherub who guards [the throne room], and I placed you there. You were in the holy mountain of God; you walked in the middle of the stones of fire. you were blameless in all of your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your slander you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as defiled from the mountain of God. And I have excluded you, O guardian cherub, out from the middle of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom because of your glamour. I cast you to the earth; I placed you before kings, that they may see you."

(3) As a result of antecedent arrogance, we have the creation of mankind to resolve the prehistoric angelic conflict. A part of that conflict is the Church Age. Never before in history has so much been given to the ordinary believer as in this dispensation.

b. There are three arrogance skills: self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption.

(1) The arrogance skills are the greatest enemy of the grace of God and the greatest distraction to fulfillment of the protocol plan of God through the spiritual skills. The arrogance skills produce more loser believers than any other single factor. The arrogance skills are the source of legalism and the arrogance complex of sins.

(2) Christian activism is one of the great illustrations of how all three of the arrogance skills coordinate to distract the believer from the protocol plan of God.

(a) The evil function of Christian activism demands self-justification. Christian activism contends that the means justifies the end, and therefore, that leads to the greatest possible self-deception. However, a wrong thing done in a wrong way is wrong; a right thing done in a wrong way is wrong; a wrong thing done in a right way is wrong. Only a right thing done in a right way is right.

(b) The combination of self-justification and self-deception in the believer always results in the defense mechanisms of denial and projection. Denial is always self-deception because it divorces the believer from spiritual reality and the true content of the infallible word of God. Projection is always self-justification at the expense of someone else. Self-justification and projection results in a phenomenal outburst of both the arrogance complex of sins as well as the emotional complex of sins.

(c) Christian activism becomes a part of this, and is therefore described in the Scripture as dead works, human good, and evil. The inevitable result of this course of action is locked-in arrogance, called self-absorption. Combined with denial and projection, self-absorption results in the sins of vituperation, vilification, malice, judging, maligning, gossip, the creation of the public lie. All of this is the manifestation of the arrogance skills in Christian activism. Add to this the other sins of the arrogance complex and the spiritual skills are completely immobilized and replaced by the arrogance skills.

(d) Spiritual skills and arrogance skills cannot coexist in God's plan. Either you function under the spiritual skills and advance to maturity, glorifying God, or you fail completely by being involved in the arrogance skills. When the arrogance skills are operational, the spiritual skills are defunct. When the spiritual skills are operational, the arrogance skills

are defunct.

(e) All distractions and deviations from the protocol plan of God are justified through the function of the arrogance skills. Self-justification or crusader arrogance and Christian activism result in self-deception. Self-deception leads to denial, total divorcement from the reality of Bible doctrine and the evils of Christian activism as well as other forms of legalism. Self-absorption rejects and reacts to any suggestion that Christian activism is evil.

(3) Self-righteous arrogance, which is also crusader arrogance, results in self-justification. The arrogant believer is constantly justifying self. Self-justification enters into the defense mechanism of denial and the use of projection. Part of self-deception is being so divorced from reality that you take your own flaws and superimpose them on those around you. It is described in [1 Jn 1:8](#), "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us." [Gal 6:7](#), "Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever a person sows, this he will also reap." When the believer sows in the arrogance skills, he reaps the most miserable life and becomes a psycho-believer. [Hos 8:7](#), "He sows to the wind and reaps the whirlwind." [Gal 6:3](#), "If anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself and the truth is not in him." Self-deception results in self-absorption. Self-absorption is found in [Jam 3:14](#), "But if you have bitter jealousy and strife in your heart, be not arrogant, and stop lying against the truth."

2. The conflict between grace and arrogance is stated throughout Scripture.

a. [Jam 4:6](#), "But He keeps on giving greater grace. Therefore it [[Prov 3:34](#)] says, "God makes war against the arrogant [believer], but gives grace to the humble [believer]." God cannot give grace to the arrogant believer.

b. [Jam 4:14-15](#), "Yet you do not know what kind of life is yours tomorrow. You are just a vapor trail that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. But as it is, you boast [in your arrogance], 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.'" Believers are designed to have maximum historical impact, but the arrogant believer has no impact at all.

c. [Jer 9:23-24](#), "Thus says the Lord, 'Let not a wise man boast of his

wisdom, and let not the powerful man boast in his power, let not the rich man boast in his riches. Let him who boasts, boast this, that he understands and knows Me. That I am the Lord who exercises grace, justice, and righteousness on the earth.”

d. [2 Cor 10:17-18](#), “But he who boasts, let him glory in the Lord. Not he who commends himself is approved, but whom God promotes.”

Boasting in a bad sense is arrogance. Boasting in a good sense is the spiritual skills. God never promotes apart from His grace policy related to spiritual capacity righteousness. God promotes those who are grace oriented. God promotes on the basis of consistent function of the spiritual skills. Promotion, then, is a matter of doctrinal inculcation and grace orientation.

e. [1 Pet 5:5b-6](#), “...and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God makes war against the arrogant believer, but He gives grace to the humble believer. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time.”

f. The antidote to the conflict between grace and arrogance is given in [2 Pet 1:2-4](#), “May grace and peace be multiplied to you for your benefit by means of epignosis doctrine about God and Jesus our Lord, because His divine power has given to us for our benefit everything with reference to life even your spiritual life through the epignosis knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and virtue, through which things He has given to us for our benefit His most valuable and great promises, that through these things you might become partners in the divine endowment, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” The multiplication of grace refers to the divine initiative of antecedent and eschatological grace. The final objective in the fulfillment of the spiritual life is the glory of God, and the means of getting there is the virtue of every believer, and that virtue is the function of the three spiritual skills. The arrogance skills wipe all of this out. Becoming partners in the divine endowment means equal privileges and equal opportunity for the function of the spiritual life and glorifying God. It also means equal dividends in the three spiritual skills for the execution of the protocol plan of God.

g. [Rom 12:2-3](#), “And stop being conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renovation of your thinking, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is absolute good and well pleasing and the mature. For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think; but think in terms of sanity, as God has assigned to each believer a standard of thinking from doctrine.” Being conformed to this world is the thinking of the arrogance skills. The arrogance skills conform to this world. The spiritual skills are the renovation of your thinking.

(1) [Prov 16:18](#), “Arrogance precedes destruction, and before a fall there is a lifestyle of arrogance.”

(2) [Prov 29:23](#), “A persons arrogance will bring him low, but a lifestyle of humility will attain honor.”

(3) [Prov 11:2](#), “When arrogance comes, then comes dishonor.”

(4) [Prov 13:10](#), “Through arrogance comes strife, but wisdom is with those who receive instruction.”

h. [2 Tim 3:2-7](#), “For mankind [believers] will be lovers of self [self-absorption], lovers of money, boastful and arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful [failure to attain spiritual capacity righteousness], without a sense of responsibility, devoid of natural affection, implacable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good [without spiritual values], treacherous, thoughtless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a superficial form of the spiritual life [legalism], but they themselves have repudiated its power; in fact avoid such persons as these. For among them are those who creep into households and seduce silly women who are loaded down with sins, led on by their multifarious lusts, always learning and never able to come to an epignosis knowledge of the truth.”

(1) The inevitable result of staying with the arrogance skills described in this passage is the destruction of your spiritual life.

(2) Believers living in the arrogance skills have repudiated the power of the spiritual life, i.e., the spiritual skills, which have been given to them for the execution of the spiritual life. They have rejected their very own portfolio of invisible assets. Every believer who rejects the fact of his own spiritual life provided for him in eternity past does not develop the

spiritual skills. Every disaster becomes a warning to him that he is not living the spiritual life.

(3) We are to avoid such believers as these because often their influence through friendship or through some relationship makes it possible for them to influence a person away from the spiritual skills. They can be a very dangerous influence on your life.

(4) "Those who creep into households and seduce silly women" describes the trend toward antinomianism, which is motivated by sex, drugs, criminal lust, etc.

(5) Once you are involved in the arrogance skills, you may come and listen to the teaching of doctrine, but you are never able to come to an epignosis knowledge of doctrine. Instead, you are always learning something related to the arrogance skills, such as psychology.

3. Illustrations of how these arrogance skills work in daily life.

a. Unrealistic expectation is an area where the arrogance skills function.

(1) Very few people are loved the way they want to be loved or treated the way they want to be treated. When this attitude is combined with the arrogance of unhappiness or subjective preoccupation with self, the result is the arrogance of subjectivity. Out of this comes the fragmented life, which is a totally unhappy life.

(2) The fragmented believer is not loved the way he wants to be loved and is frustrated and does not have the solution to the misery and frustration which comes with the use of these arrogance skills. The believer who does not translate the way he wants to be treated is unstable and often jumps from church to church, idea to idea, and from social group to social group.

(3) Unrealistic expectation is self-deception, in which the believer seeks to solve his frustrations by adding arrogance to arrogance. This ends up in the arrogance preoccupation with self, which is self-absorption. Unrealistic expectation is self-absorption. Unrealistic expectation never takes responsibility for one's own bad decisions from a position of weakness. Blaming others (or projection) results in the usual consequences related to arrogance: jealousy, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, implacability, self-pity, revenge, slander, maligning, gossip, trying to make others feel guilty so you can manipulate them.

The believer fragments his own life, but he always blames others for his miserable state.

(4) The arrogance of subjectivity is constantly trying to change other people to conform to one's own unrealistic expectation. This is the arrogance of manipulation. That ends up in self-absorption. Self-absorption is unrealistic expectation, never realizing that you can only change yourself, you can never change anyone else.

(5) The arrogance of unhappiness or subjective preoccupation with self is associated with unrealistic expectation. Unrealistic expectation intensifies the problems of the spiritual life to the point of no return apart from the problem solving devices. The fragmented believer, involved in subjective preoccupation with self, assumes that certain things will bring happiness, such as, a friendly church. People, money, prosperity, and success cannot make you happy, only perception of Bible doctrine can produce the sharing of the happiness of God.

(6) Self-deception is the great problem of the so-called "free-spirit." This person recognizes freedom without responsibility and freedom without authority, which is anarchy. This person is always looking for happiness. But the more the free-spirit seeks happiness, the more happiness eludes him. You are not happy because you are free to do what you want to do. You are free to use your own volition to destroy your own spiritual life and become frustrated, unhappy, and miserable. The free-spirit associates happiness with some form of stimulation, excitement, and self-indulgence. The free-spirit can never find happiness, because he seeks it in success, power, money, approbation, fame, pleasure, health, sex, romance, friendship, marriage, control of others. The problem of the free-spirit can only be resolved by understanding and utilizing the spiritual skills.

b. Iconoclastic arrogance is a good illustration.

(1) Iconoclastic arrogance is subjective preoccupation with other people resulting from disenchantment, disillusion, or the feet of clay syndrome. Iconoclastic arrogance creates an idol through excessive or misguided admiration or love for another person.

(2) When the iconoclastic believer discovers some sin or flaw in the object of their love, they become disenchanting and react. The reaction is part of the arrogance skills. Putting someone on a pedestal is part of

those arrogance skills.

(3) The believer with iconoclastic arrogance is angry at self, but then must justify self, and finally must deceive oneself about the truth of the matter. He must retain that humanized dignity he has established within himself. Therefore, he has to be right no matter what the facts of the case may be.

(4) With the arrogance skills you can only put someone else on a high pedestal for a short time or you can put yourself on a pedestal. When you discover the feet of clay of the person you have put on a pedestal, you are shocked and react. When you react, you have to do two things: you have to justify yourself for being dumb enough to make an idol out of that person, and in so doing, you get into self-deception.

(5) Iconoclastic arrogance destroys friendship, romance, marriage, business relationships, and church relationships. It is the message of the pastor that counts, not the person of the pastor. Occasional disappointment with others is normal and easily handled through the function of impersonal love. But iconoclastic arrogance results in permanent destruction of the spiritual life.

(6) Principles.

(a) The arrogant iconoclast never blames himself for what he has done in creating and destroying an idol. This is the second arrogance skill—self-deception. In his irrational state of arrogance, he or she fantasizes, and then blames the idol for being created by his own arrogance and for being a normal person with a sin nature.

(b) Arrogance never takes responsibility for being arrogant.

(c) Illusion created by arrogance becomes illusion destroyed by arrogance. What arrogance creates, arrogance also destroys. A person functioning under the arrogance skills will never have any real, genuine, permanent relationships in life. They are all superficial and all depend on other people feeding your arrogance.

(d) Arrogance creates illusion and the fragmented life destroys that illusion.

(e) Iconoclastic arrogance and the feet of clay syndrome is the inevitable results of getting out of fellowship and just neglecting the spiritual skills. The result is the polarization of the old sin nature trends resulting in self-justification and self-deception.

(f) The arrogant reaction of idolizing and rejecting your own icon is the vanity of transferring the blame for your failure onto the icon you have created. This is denial plus projection.

(g) Once you transfer the blame for your disillusion, disenchantment, and disappointment to the idol you have created, then you malign, slander, judge, and seek to destroy the idol you have created.

(h) Arrogance destroys what arrogance creates.

(i) The feet of clay syndrome is arrogant irrationality of rearranging the doctrine of hamartiology (sin) to make it compatible with your own self-righteousness and with your own legalism regarding the trend of your own sin nature. Self-righteous arrogance inevitably results in creating a system of self-justification. Self-justification removes you from reality; you enter into denial; you try to compensate for all of this through projection.

c. Role model arrogance is a part of iconoclastic arrogance.

(1) Role is defined as a proper or customary function of an individual. Society and people in general have assigned certain customary functions to certain activities in life. When anyone departs from his role model, he is slandered, maligned, criticized, and rejected. People have a predilection for demanding that everything in life be in its proper place. Consequently, society resents any deviation from assigned role models. Therefore, out of this, society develops a double standard which comes from the arrogance skills.

(2) While a person may excuse his own sins, failures, and flaws, he condemns the role model for the same sins, failures, and flaws, often not realizing he is condemning the role model for his very own failures. This is the normal function of denial in trying to justify self. On the one hand, judging the role model for sins from your own trend of the sin nature is hypocrisy, while on the other hand, judging the role model for sins from the opposite trend becomes self-absorption. Self-absorption results in reinforcing self-deception and reinforcing the pattern of life: I must always be right, therefore, I must find a way to justify self.

(3) Role model arrogance gravitates toward the trend of self-righteous arrogance and legalism. Therefore, you have self-justification. Role model arrogance manufactures hypocrites out of self and victims out of the role model. That is self-deception.

- (4) Role model arrogance rejects the problem solving devices and substitutes arrogant subjectivity of preoccupation with self and others.
- (5) Role model arrogance ignores the fact that you cannot change others, you can only change yourself. Role model arrogance demands that others change and become compatible with the arrogant skills of the person in role model arrogance or suffer the consequences.
- (6) Role model arrogance distracts the person in the pew by placing emphasis on the personality or the lifestyle of someone else in the congregation, or the pastor.
- (7) Role model arrogance is a part of iconoclastic arrogance and the feet of clay syndrome. The double standard of role model arrogance originates from the polarization of the sin nature's trends toward self-righteous arrogance or legalism, and therefore, self-justification. Role model arrogance (self-justification) plus unrealistic expectation (self-deception) combine to form the tragic flaw of legalism in the believer (self-absorption).
- (8) The fragmented life of legalism rejects the grace policy of God and enters into a series of sins related to anti-grace, rejecting, therefore, the divine initiative of antecedent and eschatological grace. The bad combination of unrealistic expectation and role model arrogance forms the tragic flaw of the double standard that never escapes the believer so involved. The bad combination of unrealistic expectation (self-deception) and role model arrogance (self-justification) results in the polarization of the sin nature trends, and this finally results in self-absorption. All of this is the great enemy of the Christian way of life.