

The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way – Chapter 7

1. The authors begin by asking “What does God do when we submit to Him? What does God do when we repent?”
 - a. Why do you think language of “submission” is so unpopular in our age?
 - b. How has language of “submission” been abused in the past?
 - c. What good experiences, if any, have you had with submission in your life?
 - d. Why would submission to God be a good thing – not just from God’s point of view but from ours?
2. God offers us two things when we start on our journey: *justification* and the *new birth* (being “born again”).
 - a. What’s the difference between a “real” and a “relative” change?
 - b. In what ways is justification a “relative” change? Relative to what?
 - c. In what ways is the new birth a “real” change?
3. Romans 5:1-11 begins with Paul’s statement, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith...” The next several verses go on to explore the depths of this relationship.
 - a. What does faith have to do with justification, with coming into a restored and healed relationship with God? Which aspects of faith (believing, trusting, giving allegiance) are most important at this point? Why?
 - b. How does justification lead to “peace with God?” Before we have peace with God, what do verses 9-10 suggest about the state of our relationship with God?

- c. What is the role Jesus plays in this work of justification?
Verses 2, 6, 8, 10, 11 are especially pertinent here.
 - d. Why on earth would anyone “glory in their sufferings?” (v. 3)
Have you ever considered doing this?
 - e. According to v. 5, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in this part of the Christian life?
4. There are two passages that especially illuminate the New Birth: Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:1-15, and Paul’s comments on the change in our lives in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.
- a. According to Jesus in John 3, why is the New Birth needed?
 - b. Why was the idea of the New Birth so difficult for Nicodemus to grasp? Why is it difficult for us?
 - c. In what contexts in today’s church do people experience the New Birth?
 - d. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul talks about the New Birth as “new creation.” What is the relationship between this “new creation”/New Birth and the reconciliation effected by Christ?
5. When we consider church life, it’s easy to see people coming, being active, even becoming members of the church.
- a. What about justification and the New Birth? How do we see these things?
 - b. When have you experienced or seen for yourself the real life change accomplished by God in a person’s life that we call “being born again?”
 - c. Scripture is clear that these are things God does, but if we want to see more people experience life with God through justification and the New Birth, is there anything we can do?