

Sweet Surrender – Humble Pie

What is surrender? It's hit home for me recently in giving up on understanding why God does what God does. If I went through and asked each of you about what surrender was to you, you'd probably give me about a hundred customized versions of surrender that fit your life and where you are.

Remember that everything that the world's system gets ahold of it perverts. So whether it's music, prayer, or surrender, the world's system perverts it.

For music, the world's system has turned it into a sensual experience, mostly glorifying the human body and the senses, whereas God's purpose for music has always been and will always be to bring Glory to Himself.

The world's system turns prayer into a mindless, lifeless ritual to be avoided at all costs that only someone that doesn't have any social life anyway would possibly participate in regularly when God has always intended prayer to be an ongoing conversation between those He loves, His creation and the awesome creator.

In the same way the world has turned surrender into something done, only at the last minute, after all other avenues are exhausted and you have failed. In the world's system surrender is a consequence of failure. You only surrender after failure has occurred.

Well the doctors can't do anything more, I give up!
Well I've made a mess of our finances doing it my way, I give up!
Well my marriage is falling apart, I give up!
Well all my friends hate me, I give up!

Or surrender is an event that happens only when we finally get caught.
My wife caught me cheating on her again. I guess I'm going to have to straighten up and give my heart to God and start going to church.
My parents caught me smoking pot and now I have to go to church with them.
My boss caught me looking at porn on the internet at work and now I have to go to counseling to get help.

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The whole thing takes on an old west connotation when Bad Bart gets caught by the sheriff and is surrounded.

Come out with your hands in the air and surrender, Bad Bart. We've got the place surrounded.

So as we go through this together, what we're going to find is that Surrender in God's economy, in this thing we call the Kingdom of God, is much more than just a one time event. It is a consistent, life choice made every day by each of us as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

What I have found as I've studied and prayed about this is that true, biblical surrender is sweet. It is something that brings peace and bears fruit in our lives. It is not something only done after failure, but rather, before true success.

In this series we're going to explore 3 key characteristics of biblical surrender together and see how they apply to our walk with Christ, and also, maybe, see that what we've been calling our walk with Christ isn't really what we thought it was.

The first of the 3 key ingredients to sweet surrender I call humble pie.

1 peter 5:5-7

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject (submissive to or surrendered to) to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Rank or wealth or position. Biblical humility is a choice to put my deal ahead of yours.

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When there is a conflict to what we want, I'm choosing to put your deal first, not because of your rank, or your position, or your wealth or power, but because that's what God (whom I'm surrendered to) wants.

God opposes or resists or works against the proud. I resist relationships built around getting your way.

Pride is the enemy of humility. Pride says it's all about me. Humility takes me out of the equation.

But He gives grace to the humble.

Grace = the power to do what you need to do in the moment you need to do it.

When you and I are willing to put others first, this promise by Peter says God gets involved in that!

V6 by humbling yourself you're being obedient.

Old testament to this says declare your dependence and announce your obedience.

KJV says in due time. I've known a lot of people that have waited a long time for the due time. God's due time is different than our due time.

V7

Cast (unload, throw, back the truck up and dump it) all your anxieties on Him.

Whatever is in your box of expectations toward your relationships, take it to God.

EVERYTHING. Guilt free.

Why?

Because He cares for you

Because you are of concern to Him.

God asks, "Is this important to you?"

If your answer is yes, then it's important to Him!

If it's a point of anxiety to you, then God cares!!!! Cast it all on Him.

It doesn't matter how silly you think this is. God we always wanted... We always had planned... I had always intended...

When you cast your fears and anxieties on Him, and humble yourself before Him, He gives you the grace to endure.

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We make it our aim. . . ." It requires a conscious decision and effort to keep our primary goal constantly in front of us. It means holding ourselves to the highest priority year in and year out; not making our first priority to win souls, or to establish churches, or to have revivals, but seeking only "to be well pleasing to Him." It is not a lack of spiritual experience that leads to failure, but a lack of working to keep our eyes focused and on the right goal. At least once a week examine yourself before God to see if your life is measuring up to the standard He has for you. Paul was like a musician who gives no thought to audience approval, if he can only catch a look of approval from his Conductor.