

Perfection

Introduction:

A. charge of perfectionism:

*But I use the term 'neo-perfectionism' to describe that doctrine that holds that the imperfect Christian (one who admittedly sins, as all of us do - 1 John 1:8), must perceive perfectly his own faults in order to confess perfectly to God.... That is why I call it **new perfectionism** - it is not sinlessness, but perfect perception of sin (Eugene Britnell, **The Sower** (May-June, 1985).*

B. The Bible certainly teaches us to be perfect. - Matthew 5:48

C. How are we to be perfect?

I. Perfection is not just an unreachable goal to be pursued ("to reach the unreachable star") but a command to be obeyed.

A. patriarchal age - Genesis 17:1

B. law of Moses - Deuteronomy 18:13

B. law of Christ - Matthew 5:48; 2 Corinthians 13:11

C. The Bible gives examples of people who were perfect.

1. Noah - Genesis 6:9

2. Job - Job 1:1,8; 2:3

II. What then does it mean to be perfect?

A. The New Testament verb most commonly translated "perfect" means "**1. complete, bring to an end, finish accomplish.... 2. bring to an end, bring to its goal or to accomplish** in the sense of overcoming or supplanting of an imperfect state of things by one that is free fr. objection.... **e. make perfect...**" (Arndt & Gingrich. 817).

B. To be perfect is NOT to:

1. never sin.

a. Noah - Genesis 9:20-21

b. Job - Job 9:20; 42:1-6

c. David

(1) He determined to behave in a perfect way. - Psalm 101:2

(2) But he certainly sinned!

2. remember every act of sin or even every sin one has ever committed. Doubtless the prodigal son did not recall each instance of sin during his profligate life, but he did turn away from all sins and confess all sins. - Luke 15:11-32

3. have perfect knowledge of the Bible.

4. earn heaven. - Philippians 3:15; 1 Timothy 1:12-16

5. be self-righteous. - Titus 3:4-7

C. To be perfect is to:

1. be forgiven of all one's sins - Hebrews 10:1-4,12-14
 - a. on the basis of:
 - (1) the grace of God - Titus 3:7
 - (2) the blood sacrifice of Christ - Hebrews 10:14
 - (3) the Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - a. by means of
 - (1) faith - Hebrews 11:6-7
 - (2) works of faith - James 2:22
 - (3) compliance with the divine terms of pardon - Hebrews 10:19-22
2. have sincere, undivided loyalty - Philippians 3:13-15; 1 Chronicles 28:9; 29:9; 1 Kings 15:14; 2 Kings 20:3
3. be willing to sacrifice all for the Lord - Matthew 19:16-22
4. know God's word - Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 5:12-6:3
5. keep the commandments of God - 1 Chronicles 29:19
6. be diligent in good works - Hebrews 13:21
7. live a holy life - 2 Corinthians 7:1
8. suffer - 1 Peter 5:10
9. be patient - James 1:4
10. have Christ-like character - Matthew 5:48; Luke 6:40; Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 John 4:17

Conclusion:

- A. Brother, sister, are you perfect? - 2 Corinthians 13:11
- B. Let us go on unto perfection. - Hebrews 6:1