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### The Solution to Carnality

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## THE SOLUTION TO CARNALITY

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
NUMBER 42  
EPHESIANS 4:20-21

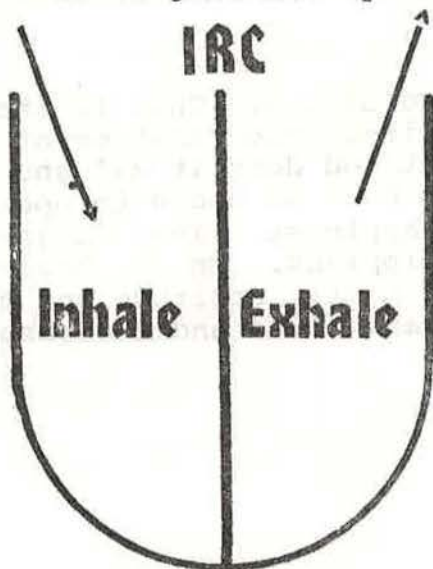
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EPHESIANS 4:20-21 "But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:"

In verses 11 and 12 of this chapter we studied about the various spiritual gifts the Lord has provided. The conclusion of all this is stated in verse 12 and is "for the edifying of the body of Christ." The word for edify is "oikodome." This word edify is repeated again in verse 16. Later in this chapter in verse 29 we will see this same word again. Edify means "to erect a structure from the foundation up." This is the absolute opposite to the scar tissue that forms on the soul.

So the objective of the Christ-life is to erect a structure in the soul from the foundation to the very top, which is supergrace. In breathing every day, we inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Now you only exhale about half as much oxygen as you inhale. That other half goes into your blood and that's the way you live.

IN YOUR BRAIN YOU HAVE AN I R C, WHICH WE CALL AN INVOLUNTARY RESPIRATION CENTER. This is the apparatus that keeps you breathing all the time, when you are awake or when you are asleep. Most of the time you are not conscious of the fact that you are breathing, but this little apparatus keeps working all the time, night and day. The oxygen in your blood triggers this little apparatus and the I R C keeps you breathing even in your sleep. Now remember this--REBOUND TRIGGERS YOUR SPIRITUAL I R C and you breathe spiritually. When you rebound and get back in fellowship, all signals are now on go--and you are ready to take in truth. This is the way you keep breathing spiritually. This spiritual oxygen is Bible doctrine, and to have an edification complex in your soul and life, one must breathe in spiritual oxygen every day. Without this spiritual edification, you cannot function as a Christian should function. In other words, you have SPIRITUAL EMPHYSEMA. In emphysema, the I R C keeps working but you gasp for breath and you will eventually die for lack of spiritual oxygen. So the job of the pastor-teacher is to give out spiritual oxygen.

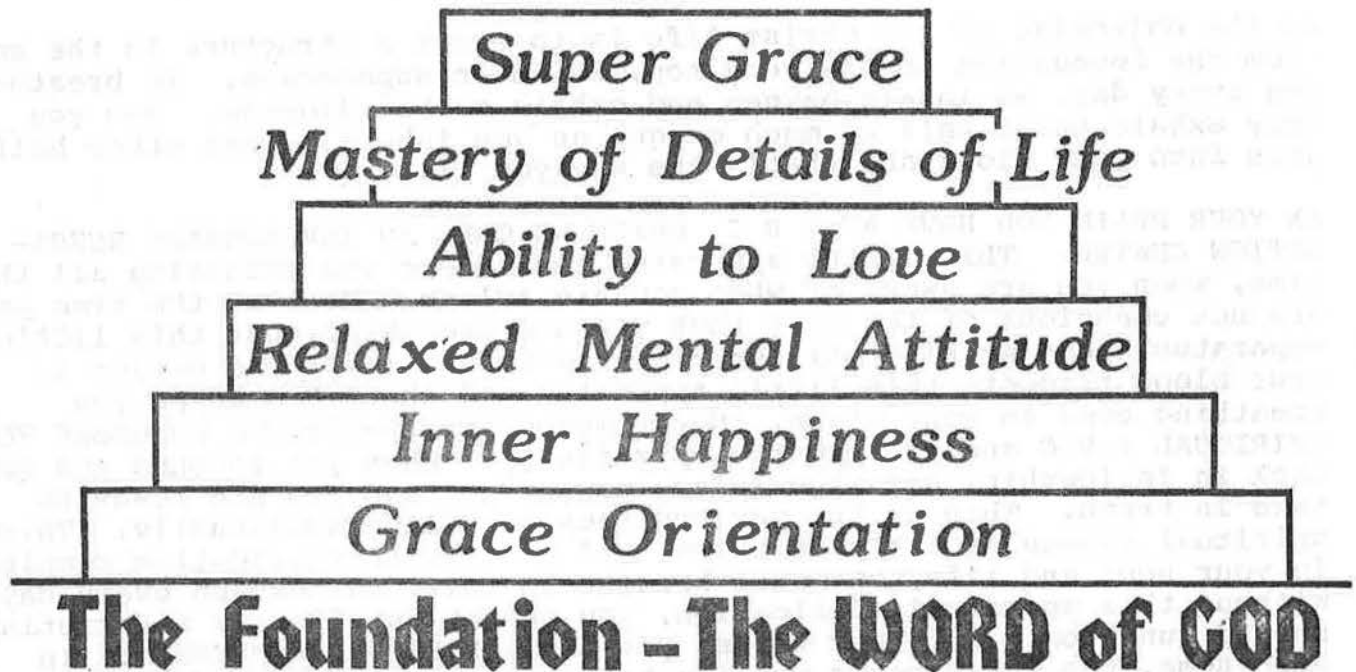


The I R C keeps the breathing apparatus working. When you breathe in truth, then you erect an edification in the soul and this makes it possible for you to breathe out faith toward God. You don't breathe out all the oxygen, just about half of it. The half that remains in the soul we call residual oxygen and it goes into your blood. In the same way you breathe in truth into the soul and part of it remains and becomes residual inner truth on which you live.

You cannot grow up to spiritual maturity without this spiritual oxygen. Your I R C can work, but you must have residual spiritual oxygen in order to grow and mature. Rebound gets you in position so you can learn and grow but the raw material on which the growth is accomplished is the daily intake of Bible doctrine.

Though we have studied this principle before, and though we had the outline of the edification complex on the front of the Church Directory some years ago, I am going to repeat it here so you can check yourself and see how much progress you have made in your own life.

This is the Bible's most perfect picture of spiritual growth and it is called "edification" coming from the word "oikodome."



Please notice that the foundation is the Word of God. This is the only safe foundation for the structure of human life. The first great principle we learn is grace, and this means that God does it all and we receive the benefit of what he does for us. Once we begin to operate on the grace principle, we then have inner happiness. This is joy and this is the theme of the little Book of Philippians. On the basis of this relaxed joy, you can now have a relaxed mental attitude and this leads to the capacity to love in all these categories and the result of it all is a mastery of the details of life.

Now this edification is the result of constant inhale of spiritual oxygen, which is Bible doctrine. It takes a lot of spiritual breathing to grow an edification complex. An edification is the great spiritual objective of your life. This takes constant study, constant prayer, and constant growth. Edification is the erection of a structure in your soul from residual doctrine which is the exact equivalent of human breathing. The residual oxygen keeps you alive physically. The residual spiritual oxygen keeps you alive spiritually. You climb the edification ladder just in proportion to your intake of Bible doctrine. So, let me ask you a question--Where are you on the ladder of the edification complex? How high have you climbed?

I implore you to carefully consider this lesson on the most important spiritual instruction it is possible for me to give you. If you ever intend to grow, you must face the issue of scar tissue and the issue of the edification complex. But you can't draw this spiritual money out of the bank unless you store away truth every day.

The only way you can exhale faith and stability and divine good is to have an abundant supply of residual doctrine in your soul. You have to have an erected structure in your soul, and this is the only thing that will blow the scar tissue out. Sincerity won't do it! Being faithful to the program of the church won't do it! It takes doctrine in the soul to do it. A magnificent, fantastic doctrinal buildup is possible and from this edification buildup out flows divine good. This is the way God designed the spiritual life to be. The last word of verse 11 is "teachers" and from the teaching of the Word of God comes:

1. The perfecting of the saints
2. The work of the ministry
3. The erected structure in the soul of the body of Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:13 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" Your knowledge of Jesus Christ is the sum total of the erected structure in your soul.

EPHESIANS 4:20 "But ye have not so learned Christ;" "But" is a conjunction of contrast, a contrast of scar-tissue saints in the previous passage and the believer who is building an edification complex in his soul by taking in Bible doctrine daily. "Ye" is the nominative plural in the emphatic position, and it means "all you believers didn't learn Christ that way." The word for learned is "manthano" and it means to receive categorical instruction.

#### Illustration

Suppose you, as a child, had a set of small blocks and a set of large blocks. You learned to build things out of the small blocks and then learned to build things out of the large blocks. But suppose some bully came in and mixed up the small blocks with the large blocks. When you started the next time to build something, you found that the small blocks and the large blocks didn't work well together. This is the way it is in learning doctrine. It has to be categorically taught and you see, Satan, as often as he can, slips in and mixes up the small blocks

and the large blocks and wants you to be confused in your mind. You learn the simple things and then you move on to the complex things. "The Christ" here refers to the mind of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

EPHESIANS 4:21 "If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:" This "if" is a first class condition and it means the statement is true. "Ye" is plural and it means all those Ephesian Christians. Paul had taught them all. But just being there and sitting in the congregation didn't necessarily mean that they learned doctrine. Hearing does not mean learning unless there is soul involvement. There must be positive volition toward doctrine and there must be the filling of the Holy Spirit and there must be the pastor-teacher. Then you must study and learn, study and learn, study and learn. "Have been taught" is from "didasko" and this means teaching in a public assembly.

#### Five Points On Public Teaching In An Assembly

1. Public teaching demands a pastor-teacher and the congregation of believer priests, may even have some unbelievers present, but before they can learn doctrine, it will be necessary for them to be converted.
2. In keeping with this doctrine of the privacy of the priesthood, God has ordained the public communication of Bible doctrine for the Church Age. The Bible says, "By the foolishness of preaching." Being in a public assembly gives one privacy so he can receive the information being transmitted.
3. Only in the communication of doctrine in a public assembly does the individual have the privacy to learn doctrine, and then use it to the glory of the Lord.
4. One by one teaching is an intrusion of the privacy of an individual. It involves bullying, coercion, personality violation, and personal intrusion. (In a public teaching situation, you can learn doctrine and not like the teacher at all.)
5. Therefore, the proper ingredients for the teaching of doctrine are--
  - a. The filling of the Holy Spirit
  - b. Someone to function as a pastor-teacher
  - c. An assembly of learners positive toward doctrine

"Have been taught by him" refers to Jesus Christ, who was and is the perfect teacher. Even though Christ had ascended and had been glorified, he still gives his mind to the pastor-teacher, and that pastor-teacher imparts it to others. The doctrine is inside the mind of Christ.

The word "Jesus" is used here for it refers to him as being seated at God's right hand, and means glorified humanity, which is a picture of what one day we will be.

So the solution to scar tissue is:

1. Rebound
2. A decision to take in doctrine and a decision to let nothing take you away from this goal
3. Filling of the Holy Spirit
4. A pastor-teacher