

Striving for Perfection

By Rev. Greg Creasy

Do you know anyone who is perfect? I have known some people who thought they had it all together and were perfect in their lives. Let me ask another question...can we be perfect? Is there a place or time on this earth when we can reach perfection in our lives? If so, then how?

The problem with people who think they are perfect is pride. The scriptures are clear to tell us that God is perfect and complete. The Bible says, *“The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress”* (Job 37:23, NIV) and *“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens”* (Psalms 8:1, NIV). In God, we understand perfection and completeness. This was made even clearer to us in the presence of Jesus Christ among us. The Bible tells us that Jesus said, *“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me...”* (John 14:11, NIV). In Jesus Christ we know and understand the perfection of God.

Can WE be perfect? The Bible says that we are to *“be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect”* (Matthew 5:48, NLT). At the end of his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul wrote this statement, *“Finally, brothers, goodbye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you”* (2 Corinthians 13:11, NIV). The scripture also records that *“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless”* (Genesis 17:1, NIV).

The words *perfection* and *blameless* both carry the understanding of being *“complete thoroughly”* and *“complete, full, perfect, sound, without spot.”* So when we think about being perfect it carries an understanding of being complete - and that completeness is not found in what we do or strive to do, but in Jesus Christ. The Bible says, *“We proclaim him (Christ), admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ”* (Colossians 1:28, NIV). Our perfection can only come through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The only perfect person to walk this earth was Jesus Christ. He was complete in his flesh...never embodied sin...perfect in all that he did and represented to each person on this earth, including us today.

So how do we strive for perfection? First, I believe we must pursue an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, daily walking with him and living for him in all we do. We must keep learning and growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. As we do, we are reaching for maturity in our faith. The Bible says, *“This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13, NLT). Second, I believe we need to help each other. Remember, no one is perfect, so we shouldn’t be surprised when someone makes a mistake. Many times our first response is to criticize others, but we should strive to be an encouragement to each other in our walk with Christ. This will build up the body of Christ and will bring glory to God.

Ultimately, our perfection or completeness will come when we pass from this earthly life into an eternal life with Jesus Christ. What a glorious day that will be...basking in the glory and glow of heaven, offering perfect praise to God, and honoring forever the One who made eternal life possible - Jesus Christ! I hope our days are filled with a desire to be all that God wants us to be - a desire to exhibit completeness and perfection in our Christian lives - so that others will see a picture of the perfect God and his perfect Son, Jesus Christ, in our lives!

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