

Session 63: Edification Prayer

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 63).

Lesson Outline:

- Post-doctrinal exhortations for Relationship Prayer.
- Danger Signals (that things are not working properly).
- Solution (how to get things working properly again).
- The mechanics of Edification Prayer.

Note: Mike does not follow any thing in the notes for the first 31 minutes and discusses a treasure map handout for Romans 12 featuring 18 mercies. So I will give extra space for you to take your own notes here. See map on 1107.

Brief review:

About five weeks ago, I introduced us to relationship prayer. This is the first kind of intelligent prayer we should engage in. Why do I say that? I say that because of the purpose of relationship prayer.

The purpose of Relationship Prayer:

- The development of our Father/son relationship with God.

A developing relationship with God consists of three virtues being installed in us through at least 18 mercies:

1. An ever increasing love for God
2. Knowledge of a Father-son relationship
3. Gratitude for what he has done

When we start the education proper in Romans 12:3, we will encounter the first form of doctrine. This doctrine's purpose is the initial installation of godly love in us. When I say godly love, I am not talking about any kind of love which we, as humans, naturally possess, but I am talking about the kind of love that only God possesses.

More specifically, God is installing his love in us so that we begin thinking toward the other members of our local assembly the way he does and, as an extension of the thinking, we begin to act toward them as Christ would.

Space for personal reflection and notes

Session 64: Edification Prayer, Continued

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Warning:

Do not deceive yourself into thinking you already have godly love operating in you. Godly love is only generated in us by the doctrine sitting in Romans 12:3-8. The doctrines that follow Romans 12:3-8 build on that godly love and expand it (make it abound) toward various groups outside our local assembly.

Warning:

Do not think that you can develop godly love without going through the entire process of understanding, believing, praying, and living out of the doctrine. There are no shortcuts.

So why am I giving you all this emphasis? The godly love that will be generated in us by the doctrine in Romans 12:3-8 does not come out of the blue.

Post-doctrinal Exhortation:

The only way we can love others, the way God himself loves them, is for us to first love God. As we have talked about before, we must love him for more than just saving us from hell. This is exactly what relationship prayer does!

Therefore, relationship prayer is the necessary first step toward preparing ourselves for the first form of doctrine in the education.

Our abounding love for God, knowledge of God, and gratefulness to God are the product of relationship prayer. That kind of praying is the foundation upon which our entire education rests. Until we love God for his many mercies at least (18), we will not get to first base in the education.

Warning:

If our *loveknowlitude* (yes, I invented a word that encompasses all three virtues: 1) our love for God, 2) our knowledge of him, 3) our gratitude for what he has done is not increasing, then we have become stagnant. By the time we become aware that we are stagnant, we have already been that way for a while. Therefore, take this awareness as a danger signal.

The Causes of Stagnation:

If this has happened, it is because of one or more of the following:

- We have stopped our relationship prayer.

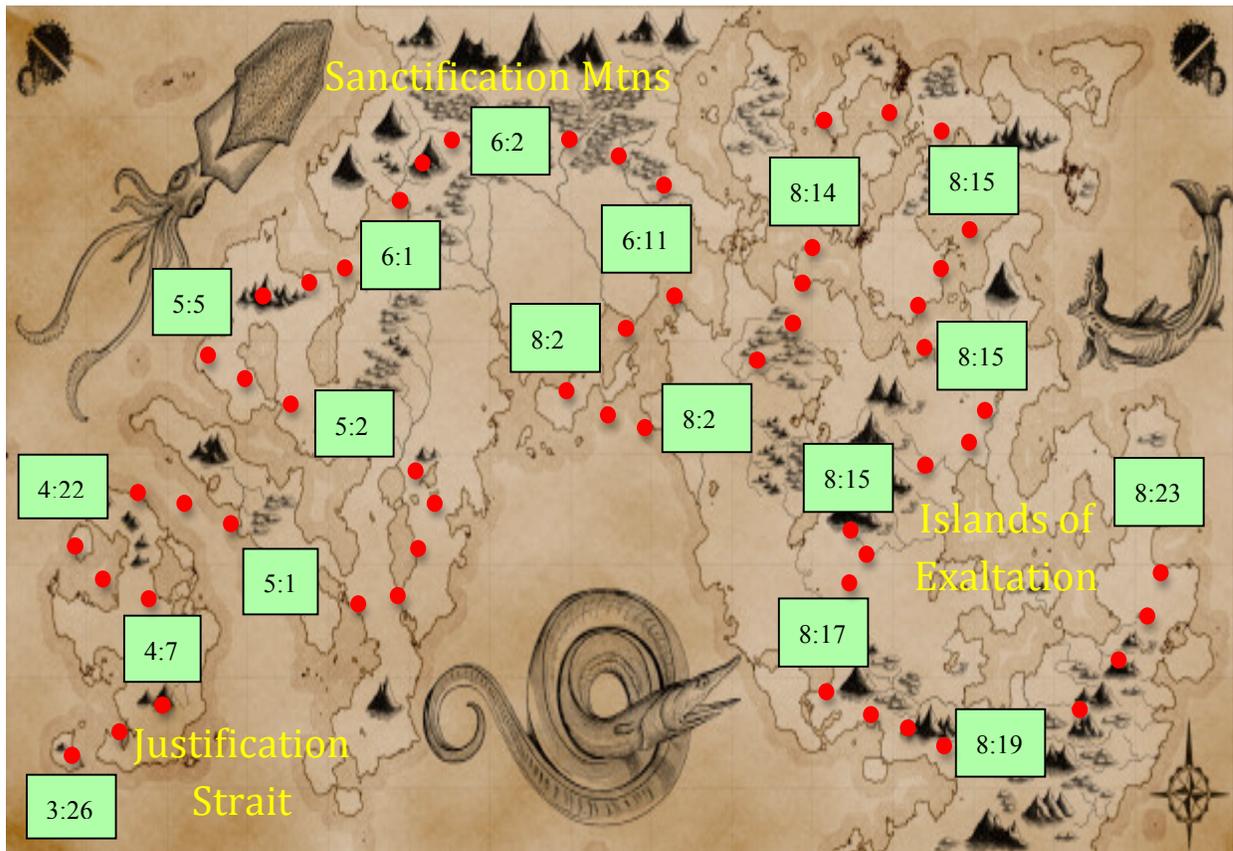
- We are just going through the motions of prayer (we have separated our prayer from the word of God).
- We have stopped our progress in the sonship education.

It is important to recall the three-fold commitment to the education we learned back in Sonship Orientation:

1. Honest attendance
2. Interactive learning
3. Top priority

Space for personal reflection and notes

Treasure Map to Roman's Mercies



The order of the Romans Mercies: Justification – 3:26; Forgiveness – 4:7-8; Imputed Righteousness – 4:22-25; Atonement (Peace with God) – 5:1, 11; Unlimited and unrestricted access to God – 5:2; Spirit – 5:5; Sanctification – 6:1, 8:1, 8:4; Dead to Sin – 6:2; Alive Unto God – 6:11; Life in Christ – 8:2; Freedom from function death – 8:2; Adopted Sons – 8:14-15; Freedom from the bondage of the law – 8:15; Freedom from fear motivation – 8:15; The Spirit of Adoption – 8:15; (Exaltation Promises) Heir of God – 8:17; (Exaltation Promises) A Heavenly vocation – 8:19; (Exaltation Promises) The redemption of our body – 8:23.