GRACE TENDS TO HOLY PRACTICE

SERMON 10 IN CHARITY AND ITS FRUITS
TWO KINDS OF KNOWLEDGE

Spiritual knowledge and understanding, which are the immediate foundation of all grace in the heart, tends to practice. A true knowledge of God and divine things is a practical knowledge. As to a speculative knowledge of things of religion, there are some wicked men who have attained to great measures of it. Men may be men of vast learning; their learning may consist very much in their knowledge in divinity, their knowledge of Scripture, and other things appertaining to religion, and they may be able to reason strongly about the attributes and works of God, and doctrines of Christianity; but in their knowledge fails of being a saving knowledge, that it is only a speculative and practical knowledge. He who has a right and saving acquaintance with divine things, the excellency of holiness, and of all the ways of holiness, for he sees the beauty and excellency of God which consist in his holiness (Sermon 10, 296).
RAJECSTORY OF SPECULATIVE AND PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

A Spiritual Knowledge of Divine Things Denied to the Unregenerate 1723

Misc. 540 1733ish

A Divine and Supernatural Light 1733

Charity and Its Fruits 1738

Christian Knowledge 1739

Religious Affections 1746

Saving Faith and Christian Obedience Arise from Godly Love 1750
EDWARDS’ THEOLOGY WAS PRACTICAL AND RELATIONAL AS WELL AS RATIONAL AND BIBLICAL

Theology is “the doctrine of living to God by Christ” (22:87).
Grace, holiness, and love are overlapping terms for Edwards.
Grace is the principal that produces holiness and love.
Holiness is how you practice. Grace in action as habit.
Love is how you relate. Grace in action in relationship.
EVERYTHING TENDS TO PRACTICE

Election, redemption, conversion, knowledge, and grace as a principal are all aimed at practice.

Grace of speculative knowledge is the foundation and is located in the understanding. Grace of practical knowledge is seated in the will.
2 GRACES THAT SHOW THE END OF SAVING GRACE IS HOLY PRACTICE

Faith
Conviction of the truth of speculative knowledge.
Will. Christ as King AND Priest.
Trust
Love to God.
Repentance

7. Humility
8. Fear to God.
9. Thankfulness and praise.
11. Love to men.
THE PROOF IS IN THE PRACTICE

Hence we may see a principal reason why Christian practice and good works are so abundantly insisted on in scripture as an evidence of saving grace. Christ has given it as a rule to us by which we should judge of men, viz. that we should judge of them by their fruits (308).

This may teach us the reason why, when Christ comes to judge men at the last day, he will judge professors of religion according to their practice (309).
SELF EXAMINATION

You are looking for desire, tendency, and direction, not perfection.

1. Are you repentant when you do sin?
2. Do you have a dread of it?
3. Do you see the beauty of holy practice?
4. Do you delight in holy practice?
5. Do you have a hunger for it?
6. Do strive after it?
7. Do you desire to know it?