

Faith Once And For All - Filters To Faith

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Intro:

A. I want to talk about filters to faith.

B. Who we are and when we were born affects the way we express faith.

1. Esther was told that perhaps she was born for such a time as this.

2. Sociologists tell us we are all born in a specific time for a purpose.

I.) Some time specific revolutions have shaped man's thinking.

A. The cosmological revolution.

1. Man is not the center of the universe.

2. Copernicus shattered his heliocentric world view.

B. Darwinian revolution.

1. Man began to think that man was not created by a loving God.

2. This led to insecurity and relativistic thinking.

C. Freudian revolution.

1. Man does not control even his own mind.

2. Do our heredity and environment control who we are?

3. All men are not equal, though we should have equal opportunities.

4. How we come from the womb is important.

5. Freud said early childhood experiences determine adult life.

6. Thus, is man really free or destined to an end?

6. In the 16th century Calvin said man was determined by God and personal response was not significant.

7. Now Freudians say man is shaped by parents and early childhood and cannot change that later in life.
8. B. F. Skinner believes environment determines a person.
9. There is a consensus that determination rather than freedom is man's destiny.
10. In Christianity grace provides the possibility of making a choice with the help of God.

- a. When the Son makes free you will be free.
- b. Young people feel the world is closing in on them.
- c. They feel they must change the world even if it means destruction.

11. There are filters to our faith.

- a. Our growing up experience.
- b. Parents.
- c. Church.
- d. School.

12. Machinery does not work well without filters.

- a. Air filters.
- b. Oil filters.
- c. These must operate well for the machine to function well.

D. Are these filters fixed?

1. Yes, to the extent that we have them.

- a. We cannot change our looks or who we are.
- b. We must accept who we are as God accepts us.
- c. We cannot escape who we are.

- d. Change is possible and reform is desirable but we cannot become someone other than who we are.
- e. The Holy Spirit will not help us to become someone else.
- f. The Spirit will only help us to become the persons God created us to be.

2. Filters can be changed.

- a. We change air conditioner filters.
- b. We need to change our personal filters.
- c. The Gospel is true but it sometimes needs redirection.
- d. We must move from a provincial perspective to a broader perspective.

1. Travel.

2. Reading.

3. Sympathy.

4. Involvement all play a role in changing us.

e. Discussing faith with a person from another faith in order to see conversion is not a human possibility.

1. The power of the divine is necessary.

2. Some witness in their own strength.

3. No amount of intellectual convincing can change a person's filters.

4. In the Bible the Spirit acts in dramatic ways to help change a person's filter orientation.

3. Who are you and what are your filters?

- a. Are you a southerner?

- b. Do you withdraw from people because of childhood hurts?
- c. Is your openness to God in proportion to your openness to others?
- d. Can a man who claims he does not need people really sense his need of God?
- e. These filters need to be understood in order to understand ourselves.
- f. We are closely screened by what we will let out, yet unfortunately we often let in many things unfiltered.
- g. The question of freedom and destiny was prominent in Esther.
- h. She had come into the kingdom just at the right time.
- i. We all have come into the kingdom just at the right time.
- j. Faith has become ours because we are confident of who we are in the sight of God, sinners in need of grace.

II.) Some questions to ponder.

- A. Can one man ever fully understand another?
 - 1. Can you imagine being born in another place?
 - 2. Can you imagine being born in another time?
- B. If there is no commonality between men how can we understand one another?
- C. What customs of your religion are social conventions and what comes from divine revelation?
 - 1. Do you accentuate the social aspects of Christianity?
 - 2. Do you accentuate the biblical aspects of Christianity?
- D. What does Christian faith say to one feeling the circumstances of life are stacked against him?

1. We cannot escape the filters of life.
2. We must discover who we are and bring these unique aspects of our lives to God.
3. Acknowledge the filters for they are their and others can see them.