

## Equipping the Saints to Live *Coram Deo*

The two kinds of righteousness- All people live in two different kinds of relationships: with God, and with others. These two types of relationships function differently.

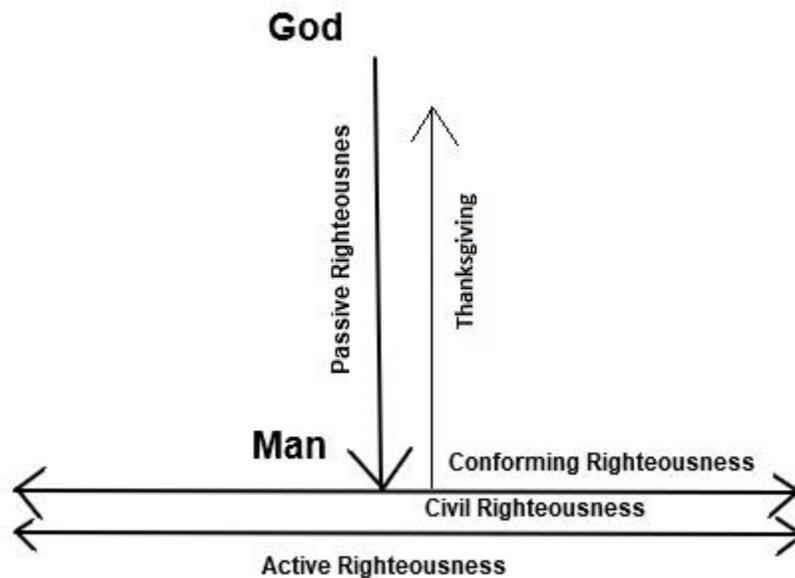
Passive righteousness- Before God (*coram deo*), we simply *receive* righteousness. We cannot earn it. God grants Christ's righteousness as a free gift.

Active righteousness- Before the world (*coram mundo*), we are called to *live* righteously. We perform good works in God's creation for the good of those around us.

"God does not need your good works. Your neighbor does."- Martin Luther

There are two kinds of active righteousness:

1. Civil righteousness- performed by unbelievers. These works are good externally, but are not motivated by the gospel and are not done in faith.
2. Conforming righteousness- performed only by Christians. This is the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, is motivated by the gospel, and done in faith.



The Christian lives at the intersection between passive righteousness and active righteousness. Before God, we live receptively. God offers gifts, and we receive. Before the world, we live actively. We perform good deeds for others. The only way in which Christians are active *before God* is in thanksgiving. God gives us his gifts, and we respond with thanksgiving toward him, and good works toward our neighbors.

## Passive Righteousness in Christian Worship

Worship is *divine* service- God serves us.

Praise is an act of thanksgiving, always in response to the gifts of Christ given in the Gospel

Absolution: The service begins with a word of forgiveness- passive righteousness.

- God must cleanse his people by his grace before they can enter into his presence.
- The congregation then responds to God's word of forgiveness with songs of praise and thanksgiving- This is the Feast, Gloria

Holy Baptism: Our Christian life begins by God's gift in the water

- Infants are simply passive in baptism
- We become Christians by what *God* says, not by what *we do*
- The entire Christian life is lived in view of baptism. The worship service is the gathering of the baptized.
- Our identity in Christ is determined by God's word- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- You are God's child as a free gift

The Lord's Supper: Your faith is renewed by Christ' body and blood

- The Lord's Supper is God's work. He gives *to us*
- The church is fed and nourished by the gift of God, through Christ's body and blood
- In the Sacrament, Christ comes down to us. We do not go up to him.
- This food nourishes our entire spiritual life. We simply receive.

Benediction

- The service ends with a word of gospel- God blesses and keeps us
- We are then empowered, by God's word of forgiveness, to live in active righteousness throughout the week
- Passive righteousness given on Sunday morning is the basis for active righteousness throughout the week
- Each day after Sunday is also lived *coram deo* by passive righteousness. Repentance and confession is a daily reality. God's gifts are given daily.