

Kingdom Manifesto
Studies in the Sermon on the Mount
Part 7 – Wholeness
Matthew 5.48

How is God perfect?

- He lacks nothing
 - 1 John 1.5, Psalm 18.30 – true in who He is and what He does (which flows from identity)
 - There is no imperfection, blemish, fault, weakness, chink in the armor, or place to improve
 - There is nothing in Him that shouldn't be there and there is nothing to be added that will make Him better
- He fills thoroughly
 - Everything that should be there is there and is there in its fullest and best expression
 - Examples – shoes with worn soles but no holes (blameless), basketball with no grip – CUP OF WATER
 - “Much to high a price” song

How do we become perfect?

- Do NOT: design a system so perfect that it does not require *me* to be good (TS Eliot)
 - Systems are only as good as their components – legalism will never get you there
- Do NOT: redefine good
 - Relativism is a place of carnage and wreckage and betrays what it espouses – all things are NOT equal, all view points are NOT valid, all roads do NOT lead to God, sincerity is NOT wisdom, all actions DO have consequences, you DO reap what you sow

A project for me to embrace

- Cooperation with His Spirit (no couch sitting) – spiritual formation vs. spiritual transformation (Phil. 2.12-13)
- Requires intention and bringing life in line with intention (Matt 19 – if you will be perfect..., let go of one to embrace the other)
- You will not drift into the kind of transformation He wants to bring CIRCLES – otherwise mediocrity or absurdity will be your accepted norm
- When I stumble and fall – toddler walking, kids on bikes, celebrating milestone, consoling hardship
- “This was never my dad...” but this IS your Father

A project for us to embrace

- “Y’all be perfect...” – Col 1.28 – if we’re not after this as a church, then what are we doing that is helpful and eternal?

“I don’t feel like I’m going to make it” – Phil 1.6

- How do we know? It’s already “finished / complete / whole” (John 19.30)