**THE MORTIFICATION OF SIN**

**Fall, 2022**

**Class 8 – Chapter 12**

**REVIEW (Chapter 11)**: Preparatory Directives #3 - 7

**CHAPTER 12 – Humility**

**Preparatory Directive #8**: **Dwell on thoughts that humble yourself and remind you of your own natural sinfulness**

1. Consider the excellence and majesty of God and your distance from Him. Job 37:22; 42:5-6
   1. What is true biblical humility? The example of Moses and Pharoah: Ex. 5:1-2; 10:3
   2. The example of Jesus Christ in His incarnation. Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 5:8-9
2. Consider how little you know Him and cultivate in your heart awe at God’s majesty. Prov. 30:2-4

Objection: But, don’t we who know Christ through the Gospel know God fully and accurately?

Answers:

* 1. Even under the New Covenant, we “see through a glass, dimly.” 1 Cor. 13:11-12
  2. God remains incomprehensible and mysterious: no one can understand Him perfectly.

1 Tim. 6:16

* 1. We know only the things God has chosen to reveal concerning Himself.
     1. These things we know by faith and not by sight. Heb. 11:1-6; 2 Cor. 3:7
     2. We understand God’s attribute only by analogy, not in his essential glory (e.g., God is omnipresent, infinite, and eternal – how can humans comprehend what this really means?).

* + 1. In this life, the chief difference between unbelievers and believers is in their manner of knowing (i.e., their *epistemology*).

1. Summary:
   1. Why *true* *humility* matters in the mortification of sin.
   2. Effect of a right knowledge of God’s greatness and our infinite distance from Him.

**Discussion Questions: Chapter 12**

* + - 1. Why is a right understanding of the excellence and majesty of God and our natural distance from Him essential to true humility as a Christian? How is obedience to God related to humility? Why is the teaching of Heb. 5:8-9 about Jesus Christ important to us as Christians?
      2. Read 1 Pet. 5:6-11. What is God’s role in our learning and practicing humility? What is the right Christian response to God’s work in teaching us humility, particularly in connection with trials and suffering in the Christian life?
      3. Why is Owen’s point about meditating on how little we really know of God important for biblical humility?
      4. Why is *humility* essential for the mortification of indwelling sin in believers? Considering *Mortification of Sin,* Chapter 12, let’s return to a question we’ve asked before: why is it impossible for an unbeliever to mortify sin, especially in relation to humility?