

On a smaller scale, the same thing happens in local churches. Rather than using good manners to resolve differences, lines are drawn, sides are taken, and some seek a safe space outside the doors of the church in open defiance of the mandate of “not forsaking our own assembling together as is the habit of some” (Hebrews 10:25). On that subject is this comment by Randolph Yeager:

Our physical presence in the congregation is in itself an encouragement to others to be present. It takes a crowd to attract a crowd. There is little that is more damaging to Christian morale than empty seats at church.³

11. True happiness is a mental attitude that is shared with us through the grace provision of divine modus operandi expressed through His Word.
12. The decisions made by every person simply fall into two categories, divine production or cosmic production. This might be classified as Operation *Praxis*.
13. The Greek noun **πράξις (*práxis*)** refers to acts, deeds, practices, works, or conduct. These categories of production are either positive or negative. Here are some verses that illustrate:

Matthew 16:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels [**2d Advent**], and will then repay every man according to his **deeds** [***praxis*: baptisms of fire for Jews and Goyim**]. (NASB)

Romans 8:12 So then, fellow believers, we are not obligated to the sin nature, that we should live according to the standards of the sin nature—

v. 13 for if you live under the authority of the sin nature, you are destined to die the sin unto death; but if by means of the Spirit you recognized as dead the **deeds** [***praxis*: sin, human good. and evil**] from the body’s production of human works, you shall live the life of divine blessings. (EXT)

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to each other, having disarmed the sin nature together with its evil **deeds** [***praxis*: functions of sin, human good, and evil**]. (EXT)

14. This word covers all concepts of a believer’s production either from the Spirit or the flesh. These definitions cover the gamut:

³ Randolph O. Yeager, *The Renaissance New Testament* (Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing Co., 1985), 16:347.

πρῶξις. A function implying sustained activity or function. A way of conducting oneself, a way of acting, a course of action. Engagement in a project that involves planning. Plan of action or undertaking. Performance of some deed or action. Customary daily activity, undertaking or business. A state of being, state, condition, or situation.⁴

15. True happiness is confined to the plan of God. It is entered into by faith in Christ but such happiness is only potential. It can only become a reality as the believer grows in grace and acquires the thinking of God.
16. The breakthrough initially occurs when the believer mentally buys into the principle that God is absolutely perfect and can be trusted to guide us to a higher level of knowledge which the world cannot provide.
17. Once a believer buys into the reality of an omniscient God, then he is able to buy into the power of His divine revelation contained in Scripture.
18. The procedure of acquiring divine thought fulfills the principle of sanctification which is a three-stage process:
 - (1) **Positional Sanctification:** At salvation the believer is entered into union with Christ and possesses top-circle assets: adoption as a new spiritual species possessing the indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit and equal privilege to execute the spiritual advance.
 - (2) **Experiential Sanctification:** Utilization of the spiritual assets to grow in grace under the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The advance develops over time an ever-enlarging inventory of divine thought including doctrinal rationales that enable the believer to resolve problems in ways that God directs rather than previous reliance on human problem-solving devices. This process is facilitated by logging maximum time inside the Bubble by consistent use of the rebound technique.

⁴ Walter Bauer, “πρῶξις,” in *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed., rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 859–60.

(3) Ultimate Sanctification: The status of the believer in resurrection body as a member of the heavenly community of believers under the authority of Jesus Christ.

19. Acquisition of the thinking of God produces happiness in time. Confidence in one's decision-making based on divine guidance results in the relaxed mental attitude that is consistent with winners who do effective combat in the Invisible War.

20. The Lord made a brief statement on behalf of these principles in:

John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth.”

21. Between salvation and physical death, the life of the believer is spent developing the assets available in the area of experiential sanctification.

22. The “experience” that must be lived in order to acquire true happiness requires taking advantage of the spiritual assets imputed at salvation.

23. The issue that most believers must face but that few successfully administer has to do with whether they buy into the reality of the power of divine thought in their souls.

24. We have noted the principle of efficacious grace that marks the starting point of the spiritual life. Faith alone in Christ alone is effectual for salvation to take place by the work of the Holy Spirit.

25. But how about efficacious sanctification? Faith is efficacious for salvation. How about happiness? It, too, is acquired by faith in the Word also administered by the Holy Spirit.

26. Salvation is acquired instantly while happiness is acquired progressively. Problem-solving device number 9 is “sharing the happiness of God.” The principle that confirms this principle is found in:

James 1:25 One who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. (NASB)

27. We will delve into the Greek of this verse later, but what we want to note at this time is the word “blessed.” It is the predicate adjective of **μακάριος** (*makários*). Here’s what the word means:

Μακάριος. Pertains to being fortunate or happy because of circumstances. Pertains to being especially favored, blessed fortunate, happy, privileged. Privileged recipient of divine favor. “Be blessed in what he does,” James 1:25.⁵

28. True happiness becomes a tremendous defense against the disillusionment that often occurs in life. Scripture identifies three areas where happiness trumps these challenges:

- (1) Overcoming disillusionments in life is noted in:

Philippians 4:11 Not that I am speaking with regard to poverty [every adverse experience increased Paul’s learning curve toward spiritual maturity], for I have learned [from consistent instruction under discipline] in whatever circumstance I am [the objectivity of positive volition & grace orientation] to keep on being content [**αὐτάρκης** (*autárkēs*): self-sufficient].

v. 12 In fact I have come to know from experience how to be disciplined in reversionism also I have come to know what it is to live in prosperity of the sophisticated spiritual life. In every place and in all circumstances I have been initiated in both how to be well-fed [**spiritual status quo**] and to hunger [**insatiable for more advanced instruction**], both of having abundance or suffering need. (EXT)

- (2) Overcoming disillusionments in the details of life:

Hebrews 13:5 Let your way of life be free from the love of money [**example of overemphasis on the details of life**]. Constantly be content with what you possess. For He Himself has said, “I will not ever abandon you, neither will I ever desert you.” (EXT)

- (3) Disillusionment with other believers indicates failure to orient to the justice of God. All believers have a sin nature and many make decisions based on an incomplete inventory of doctrine. Jesus is the prototype in dealing with human sin.

⁵ Ibid., “μακάριος,” 610, 611.