

Finney – Red Flags and Truth Assignment

Omnibus III

Due Date: Thursday, Dec 3

- Email to your mom & Mrs. Boyum
- Will present in class

Purpose

1. To help you to identify theological “flags” – doctrines that seem a bit off
2. To give you practice in determining if the doctrine is just an orange flag – something that is interesting and perhaps a second or third tier theological issue or a red flag – something that is a first-tier issue and of gospel importance
3. To give you practice explaining, with the Word of God as well as other sources, why you believe this is the case.

Assignment

Identify two to three theological flags in The Autobiography of Charles Finney.

- Explain the doctrine you see Finney believing/advocating/teaching
- Explain the caution you have
- Refute this with scripture or other references – make sure to cite them.

I have provided an example below.

Finney advocated the doctrine of “entire sanctification”

Caution: seems he is implying, by this ‘entire sanctification’ (p 188), that: 1) We can be fully sanctified this side of heaven and 2) there are ‘levels’ of Christianity – perhaps enlightenment?

- Page 189 “..whether the Gospel provided for Christians all the conditions of an established faith, and hope, and love; whether there was something better and higher than Christians had generally experienced; in short, whether sanctification was attainable in this life...”
- Page 185 “...I was led earnestly to inquire whether there was something higher and more enduring than the Christian church was aware of; whether there were promises and means provided in the Gospel for the establishment of Christians in altogether a higher form of Christian life.”

Refutation/truth:

- Sanctification can be defined as, “the progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.” (Bible Doctrine, p 326)
- Sanctification begins at our regeneration
 - Titus 3:5 “..washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit”
- Sanctification increases throughout life
 - We have been set free from the slavery to sin (Rom 6), but sin remains in our lives, and so Paul explains that we are to not let sin rein in our bodies and not to yield to it (Rom 6:12-13)
- Sanctification is completed at death
 - When we come into God’s presence, we are “made perfect” (Heb 12:23), and nothing unclean is allowed to be in the presence of God (Rev 21:27)
- We still sin in this life!
 - “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” 1 John 1:8