

Ew Kenyon Two Kinds Of Righteousness

ew kenyon two kinds of righteousness: Understanding the Biblical Perspective on Righteousness In the realm of Christian teaching and biblical study, the phrase **ew kenyon two kinds of righteousness** often emerges as a pivotal concept for believers seeking a deeper understanding of their spiritual standing before God. The idea of two kinds of righteousness—often distinguished as the righteousness of God and the righteousness of man—helps to clarify the difference between human efforts and divine provision. By exploring these two types, Christians can gain insight into the nature of salvation, the importance of faith, and the practical implications for daily living. This article delves into the biblical foundation of these two kinds of righteousness, how they contrast, and their significance for believers today.

Understanding the Two Kinds of Righteousness in the Bible

At the core of Christian doctrine is the concept that righteousness is a key attribute of God's character and a fundamental aspect of salvation. The Bible depicts two distinct kinds of righteousness—each with its own origin, nature, and impact on a believer's life. Recognizing the difference between these two kinds is essential for understanding salvation's complete picture and living in the fullness of God's grace.

The Righteousness of Man

The first kind of righteousness is often referred to as the righteousness of man. It represents human efforts to attain moral goodness, adherence to religious laws, and personal virtue. This type of righteousness is characterized by:

1. Self-initiative: Relying on personal strength, good deeds, and religious observance.
2. Legalism: Following rules meticulously to earn favor or approval.
3. Limited effectiveness: Despite efforts, human righteousness cannot fully satisfy God's standards due to inherent sinfulness.
4. Examples in Scripture: The Pharisees' emphasis on outward righteousness (Matthew 23:27-28), and attempts by individuals to justify themselves before God (Luke 18:9-14).

While human righteousness may involve acts of kindness, charity, or religious devotion, it remains insufficient for salvation because it is based on human effort rather than divine grace. The Apostle Paul emphasizes this in Romans 3:10-12, stating, "There is none righteous, no, not one," highlighting the universal need for God's righteousness.

The Righteousness of God

Contrasting the righteousness of man is the righteousness of God, which is a divine attribute and gift available to believers through faith. This righteousness is characterized by:

1. Imputed righteousness: God's righteousness is credited to believers through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:21).
2. Divine origin: It is a gift from God, not earned by human effort.
3. Transformative power: It changes the believer's standing before God, making them justified and acceptable.

4. Examples in Scripture: Romans 3:22 describes it as “the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ,” and Philippians 3:9 speaks of being found in Christ, having “the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

This righteousness is central to the Gospel—the good news that salvation is a gift of grace received through faith. It is the righteousness that Jesus imparted to believers when He died on the cross, satisfying God's justice and fulfilling the righteous requirements of the law.

The Biblical Basis for the Two Kinds of Righteousness

The distinction between these two kinds of righteousness is rooted deeply in Scripture. The Apostle Paul elaborates on this in several passages, emphasizing the difference between human efforts and divine provision.

Romans 3:21-22: The Revelation of Righteousness

Romans 3:21 states, “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe.” This verse underscores that true righteousness is a divine gift, accessible through faith, and not by human works.

Philippians 3:9: Righteousness Through Faith

Paul expresses his desire to be found “in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness which is from God by faith.” Here, Paul contrasts his previous reliance on personal righteousness with the divine righteousness obtained through faith.

Galatians 2:16: Justification by Faith

Galatians 2:16 emphasizes that “a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.” This reinforces the biblical teaching that human efforts cannot achieve righteousness acceptable to God; only faith in Christ's finished work can.

The Practical Implications of the Two Kinds of Righteousness

Understanding the difference between these two kinds of righteousness has profound implications for believers' spiritual lives and daily conduct.

Living Under Grace, Not Law

Recognizing that righteousness comes from God through faith encourages believers to live confidently in grace rather than relying on self-effort. It shifts the focus from striving to earn God's favor to trusting in His finished work on the cross.

Assurance of Salvation

Believers who understand that righteousness is imputed by faith can enjoy assurance of salvation, knowing they are accepted before God not because of their deeds but because of Christ's righteousness.

Motivation for Holy Living

While human righteousness is limited and often driven by obligation, divine righteousness empowers believers to pursue holiness from a place of love and gratitude, not fear or guilt.

How to Embrace the Righteousness of God

For those seeking to walk in the righteousness of God rather than their own efforts, several biblical principles can guide their journey.

Faith in Jesus Christ

The foundational step is placing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This act of trust activates the gift of righteousness and makes one right with God.

Understanding Grace

Embracing the concept of grace means accepting that salvation is a free gift, not something earned. Ephesians 2:8-9 emphasizes that salvation is "by grace through faith... not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Renewing the Mind

Romans 12:2 encourages believers to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, aligning their thoughts and actions with God's truth about righteousness and grace.

Walking in Obedience

While righteousness is a gift, believers are called to live in obedience, not to earn righteousness but as a response to God's grace. This includes cultivating spiritual disciplines like prayer, reading Scripture, and fellowship.

Conclusion: The Significance of the Two Kinds of Righteousness

Understanding **ew kenyon two kinds of righteousness** is crucial for a balanced and biblically grounded faith. It clarifies that human efforts alone cannot attain righteousness acceptable to God and that true righteousness is a divine gift received through faith in Jesus Christ. Recognizing the difference empowers believers to live confidently under grace, experience assurance of salvation, and pursue holiness with gratitude. As Scripture affirms, righteousness from God is the foundation of a victorious Christian life, enabling believers to walk in the fullness of God's promises and reflect His character in the world. Embracing this truth transforms not only how one views salvation but also how one lives daily, anchored firmly in God's unmerited grace.

E.W. Kenyon: Two Kinds of Righteousness E.W. Kenyon, a prominent Bible teacher and author from the early 20th century, profoundly influenced Christian thought with his teachings on faith, righteousness, and the believer's identity in Christ. Among his many insights, his exploration of the concept of "Two Kinds of Righteousness" stands out as a pivotal teaching that continues to resonate within Christian circles. This article aims to provide an in-depth analysis of Kenyon's perspective on these two types of righteousness, examining their biblical foundations, theological implications, and practical applications.

Understanding the Core: What Are the Two Kinds of Righteousness?

At the heart of Kenyon's teaching lies the distinction between two fundamentally different understandings of righteousness: Self-Righteousness and Righteousness by Faith. These concepts are not merely theological abstractions but are central to how believers perceive their standing before God, their spiritual identity, and their daily walk.

Self-Righteousness: The Human Endeavor Self-righteousness, as described by Kenyon, is the effort of individuals to attain righteousness through their own works, morality, or adherence to religious rules. It is based on the idea that human effort can earn God's favor or make one acceptable in His sight. This form of righteousness is characterized by:

- Dependence on Personal Effort: Believers relying on their own deeds, good behavior, or religious observance.
- Legalism: A focus on following a set of rules to prove one's worth.
- Insecurity and Condemnation: Because it is rooted in human performance, self-righteousness often leads to feelings of inadequacy and guilt when one fails to meet standards. Kenyon often critiqued self-righteousness for its limitations, emphasizing that it is ultimately insufficient for salvation or standing before God.

Righteousness by Faith: The Divine Gift Contrasting sharply with self-righteousness, Kenyon championed Righteousness by Faith, a divine gift bestowed upon believers through their union with Christ. This righteousness is:

- Imputed, Not Achieved: It is credited to the believer's account by God's grace, not earned through works.
- Based on Faith in Jesus Christ: Believers receive righteousness when they accept Christ's sacrifice and righteousness becomes part of their spiritual identity.
- Complete and Perfect: It is a finished work, providing believers with a righteous standing before God regardless of their deeds. Kenyon highlighted that righteousness by faith is the foundation of Christian life, offering freedom from guilt, condemnation, and the burden of trying to earn God's approval.

Scriptural Foundations of Kenyon's Teaching

Kenyon grounded his teaching on the Bible, citing key scriptures that illustrate the two kinds of righteousness.

Scriptures Supporting Self-Righteousness

- Isaiah 64:6: "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." This verse underscores the inadequacy of human righteousness, emphasizing its impurity and insufficiency before a holy God.
- Matthew 5:20: Jesus teaches that unless one's righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees, they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Kenyon interpreted this as a challenge to rely on human effort, pointing to the need for divine righteousness.

Scriptures Supporting Righteousness by Faith

- Romans 3:22: "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe." This verse highlights the divine righteousness available through faith.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Kenyon emphasized that Christ's substitutionary work imputes righteousness to believers.
- Philippians 3:9: Paul speaks of being found in Christ, "not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ." These scriptures form the biblical backbone for Kenyon's assertion that righteousness is a divine gift accessed through faith, not human effort.

The Practical Implications of the Two Righteousnesses

Understanding the distinction between self-righteousness and righteousness by faith is not purely theological; it has profound practical consequences for a believer's spiritual life, mental health, and effectiveness.

The Limitations of Self-Righteousness Kenyon pointed out several issues associated with relying on self-righteousness:

- Perpetual Failure: Since human effort is imperfect, self-righteousness leads to a cycle of guilt

and condemnation. - Legalism: It can foster a rigid, rule-based religion that stifles grace and love. - Insecurity: The believer's confidence becomes fragile, hinging on their performance. He argued that this approach to righteousness often results in frustration and spiritual stagnation because it's rooted in human weakness. The Power of Righteousness by Faith In contrast, embracing righteousness by faith offers believers: - Freedom from Guilt: Knowing their righteousness is a gift removes the shame of failure. - Confidence in God's Acceptance: Believers can approach God boldly, based on Christ's finished work. - Spiritual Authority: Recognizing their righteous standing empowers believers to live victorious lives, resist temptation, and operate in spiritual authority. Kenyon maintained that this righteousness transforms the believer's outlook, leading to a more joyful, confident, and fruitful Christian life.

Theological Significance: How Kenyon Interpreted Righteousness

Kenyon's teaching on the two kinds of righteousness touches on deeper theological themes, notably the doctrine of justification, sanctification, and the believer's new identity. Justification: The Legal Declaration Kenyon emphasized that righteousness by faith is rooted in justification, a legal act where God declares the believer righteous because of Christ's atoning sacrifice. This declaration is: - Instantaneous: The moment of faith, the believer is justified. - Complete: It covers all sin, past, present, and future. - Immutable: It cannot be revoked or lost. Sanctification: The Progressive Work While righteousness by faith provides the believer's legal standing, Kenyon acknowledged that sanctification is a process of spiritual growth. However, he stressed that sanctification is rooted in the believer's identity in Christ, empowered by the righteousness received through faith. New Identity in Christ Kenyon's teaching underscores that believers are "the righteousness of God in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:21). This new identity: - Replaces the old self: The believer no longer identifies with sin, but with Christ's righteousness. - Empowers victorious living: Knowing they are righteous in God's sight enables believers to stand firm against the enemy. Implication for Faith and Practice Kenyon's distinction encourages believers to: - Reject self-effort in favor of trusting in Christ's righteousness. - Speak and act from a place of righteousness, not guilt or inferiority. - Operate in spiritual authority, based on their divine standing.

Common Misunderstandings and Clarifications

While Kenyon's teachings are rich and biblically rooted, some misunderstandings have arisen over the years. It's important to clarify these points: Righteousness Is Not a License to Sin Some have misconstrued the emphasis on righteousness by faith as promoting complacency or sin consciousness. Kenyon clarified that true righteousness leads to holiness, not license. It is a motivation for righteous living, empowered by grace. Righteousness Is Not Based on Works Kenyon's teachings explicitly reject legalism. Righteousness is a gift, accessible only through faith in Christ. Works are a response to grace, not a prerequisite for salvation. Faith Is the Key Believers must actively believe and confess their righteousness, aligning their words and actions with their divine identity. Kenyon stressed the importance of speaking words of faith to activate spiritual realities.

Modern Relevance and Practical Application

Kenyon's insights on the two kinds of righteousness remain highly relevant for contemporary Christians seeking a victorious and confident spiritual life. Embracing Righteousness by Faith - Daily Affirmation: Believers can confess their righteousness in Christ daily, reinforcing their identity. - Rejecting Guilt: Recognizing that guilt and condemnation are rooted in self-righteousness can free believers to approach God with confidence. - Operating in Authority: Understanding their righteous standing enables believers to exercise spiritual authority over

circumstances and the enemy. Overcoming Legalism - Grace-Focused Living: Emphasizing grace over rule-keeping fosters a more joyful, genuine faith. - Balanced Teaching: Encouraging believers to pursue holiness out of love and gratitude, not obligation. Cultivating a Faith-Based Mindset - Speaking Words of Faith: Using scripture and positive confessions to reinforce righteousness. - Walking in Confidence: Approaching God and life's challenges from a position of divine righteousness.

Conclusion: The Transformative Power of Recognizing the Two Righteousnesses

E.W. Kenyon's distinction between self-righteousness and righteousness by faith offers a powerful framework for understanding the believer's position before God. It challenges the natural human tendency toward self-effort and legalism, pointing instead to the sufficiency of Christ's finished work. Embr

Questions & Answers About ew kenyon two kinds of righteousness

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the two kinds of righteousness discussed by E.W. Kenyon?	E.W. Kenyon describes two kinds of righteousness: one based on human effort and legalism, and the other as a divine gift received through faith in Jesus Christ, representing the righteousness of God imputed to believers.
2	How does Kenyon differentiate between self-righteousness and divine righteousness?	Kenyon explains that self-righteousness is achieved through personal effort and adherence to rules, whereas divine righteousness is a gift from God, received by faith, and rooted in Christ's finished work on the cross.
3	Why is understanding the two kinds of righteousness important for believers?	Understanding the distinction helps believers avoid relying on their own efforts for salvation, and instead embrace the righteousness that comes from God, leading to a more confident and victorious Christian life.
4	According to Kenyon, how can believers access the righteousness of God?	Believers access God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, acknowledging that it is a gift, not something earned by works or personal merit.
5	What role does faith play in receiving the two kinds of righteousness?	Faith is central; it is the means by which believers accept the divine righteousness offered by God, contrasting with self-righteousness which relies on human effort.
6	How does Kenyon's teaching on the two kinds of righteousness impact a believer's spiritual identity?	It affirms that believers are made righteous not by their deeds but by God's grace, transforming their identity from sinners to justified children of God.
7	Can a person switch from self-righteousness to divine righteousness according to Kenyon?	Yes, Kenyon teaches that through faith in Christ, a person can transition from relying on self-righteousness to embracing the divine righteousness available through God's grace.
8	What are the practical implications of understanding the two kinds of righteousness in daily Christian living?	It encourages believers to stop striving for acceptance through works and to rest in Christ's righteousness, resulting in greater peace, confidence, and spiritual victory.

9	How did Kenyon's concept of the two kinds of righteousness influence modern Christian theology?	Kenyon's teachings emphasized grace and faith over legalism, influencing the prosperity and faith movement by highlighting the believer's authority and identity in Christ.
10	What biblical passages support Kenyon's teaching on the two kinds of righteousness?	Passages like 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:22-24, and Philippians 3:9 support the idea of divine righteousness received through faith, contrasting with self-righteousness based on works.

E.W. Kenyon, two kinds of righteousness, imputed righteousness, positional righteousness, experiential righteousness, salvation, sanctification, Christian life, biblical doctrine, grace, spiritual growth