

An Evaluation of
The Keswick View of the Spiritual Life

Strengths

1. It preserves the Grace of God in the Gospel by requiring men to believe in Christ for salvation.
2. It provides a viable approach to the imperatives of the New Testament.
3. It acknowledges that conditions do exist and are to be met by the Christian in his pursuit of holiness.
4. It places the cross of Christ as central and the doctrine of identification as foundational.

Weaknesses

1. In its early and extreme form it tends to present the spiritual life as a second work of grace by sharply distinguishing sanctification from justification as two works of grace.
2. It ignores the sovereignty of God and His grace in the believer's deliverance from sin by placing conditions upon men to be met by men in the power of their will. It emphasizes faith as the opposite of works, rather than grace.
3. It tends toward extreme passivism.
4. A chronic problem is the insufficient time available in a five day conference to accomplish all it is intended to accomplish.
5. Complete deliverance from sinning (not sin) is sometimes conveyed by their presentation of the crisis experience which brings one into the Victorious Life.

A Summary of The Comparison of the Keswick View
of the Spiritual Life with that of Reformed Theology

Keswick Movement

Reformed Theology

1. The Two Natures	The believer has two natures	The believer has one nature
2. The Nature of Salvation	Justification and Sanctification are two distinct and separate gifts of God's grace.	Justification and Sanctification, while distinguished as recognizable steps in the process of our salvation, are inseparably bound together.
3. Types of Christians	Carnal - Spiritual In Fellowship - Out of Fellowship	Immature - mature
4. The Question of Lordship	Christ must be believed as Savior for salvation.	Christ must be believed as Savior and accepted as Lord for salvation.
5. The Sovereignty of God	Denies God's sovereignty in sanctification by placing conditions upon men and making deliverances dependant upon man's will.	Declares God's sovereignty in sanctification as well as salvation. It's all of God's grace.
6. The Responsibility of Man	Let go - surrender Let God - faith	It is all of God.