

Ye Are Complete In Him Part Three

Col 2:8-10

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 **And ye are complete in him,** which is the head of all principality and power:
KJV

God created us with a vacuum. That vacuum is our basic needs. Our basic physical needs are food and covering.

We also have basic needs for life in our soul.

Our greatest need is the need to be loved!

This is why Paul said...

Eph 3:19

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

KJV

Knowing we are loved meets two other basic needs in our soul.

Knowing we are loved makes us feel significant and secure.

To be complete in Christ means that God has met this basic need for love thru His Son!

God has filled this vacuum thru Christ!

Ye are complete in Him!

It feels great to be loved by others. But we do not need to be loved by others to be complete.

Last Tuesday was Will's 12th birthday. Sandra and I took Will to Ted's in Edmond. As we ate I discussed with Will the importance of this birthday. We talked about his transition to manhood from childhood.

This transition from childhood to manhood at age 12 was something that a Jewish boy anticipated. It was something that he looked forward too like some in our society look forward to going to college. But instead of going to college to further their education, a Jewish boy would join his father in the family business.

I shared with my son Will the story about Jesus being unintentionally left behind in Jerusalem when he was age 12. His family had made the trip from Nazareth to Jerusalem to participate in one of the Jewish feasts that commemorated what God had done for their nation. When Joseph and Mary left Jerusalem to return to Nazareth they assumed Jesus was with him. When they discovered he was missing they were very concerned and returned to Jerusalem. They found their son at the temple participating in a discussion about the scriptures and the law. When they expressed to Jesus their concern, this 12 year old responded by saying...

Luke 2:49

49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

NKJV

Will got it! It is interesting that his parents did not. For the next verse says...

Luke 2:50

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

KJV

Now Jesus did honor Joseph by joining him in the family business and Jesus became known as a carpenter. But this was not his father's business.

His father's business was restoring people.

John 5:1-20

5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.

14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.
16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

KJV

More important than the physical restoration was the restoration of a relationship with the Father.

2 Cor 5:18-19

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

KJV

This was His Father's business.

For this relationship to be restored, people would have to receive a revelation. The revelation that was needed was a revelation of God's love for them. Up until this point in history, with only a few exceptions, men who believed in the God of Israel, believed in a God that constantly needed to be appeased. They lived their lives in fear of His wrath and their greatest motivation for obedience to His law was to appease His wrath. This fear of God is called the beginning of wisdom.

It appeared to the people that this was what God wanted. Their history was filled with stories about God's wrath. They saw the sacrificial system was an endless effort to appease God.

But this motivation was difficult to maintain from generation to generation. The generation that followed a generation that feared God would not fear him. They would reject his moral guidelines and even turn to other Gods. God would judge them again to cause the next generation to fear Him and the cycle repeated itself.

The people thought this was all that God wanted and they could not hear the prophets who talked about God's love for them.

So Jesus came to do His father's business. He would reveal the father by the way that He lived and loved. Then thru the cross He would not only appease the father for all who would believe but He would meet man's greatest need which is the need to be loved. Thru this revelation of the Father's love, the relationship that the Father desired would be

restored. Men would then obey the Father because they trusted in the Father's love and they loved the Father.

Jesus did His father's business and did it well. He also made it clear that it was the Father in Him reconciling the world to himself. They were in this together and both would suffer because they were one. Who suffered more at the cross?

But even though Jesus did His father's business well it is evident when you read the epistles that problems soon developed in the church.

Gal 1:6-8

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

KJV

Men who believed had a hard time maintaining their faith in the Father's love. They had a hard time resting in the Father's love.

Times were tough. Circumstances were tough. People were tough. All of this suffering made it appear that they had done something wrong and that the Father still needed to be appeased.

Then there were those times when people in the church knew they had failed. Instead of seeking to discover what was wrong in their relationship with the father that caused them to fail, they fell back into the trap of trap of creating new laws that would keep them from failing.

Then there were those men with lots of spiritual ambition. Their goal was to do great things for the Father. To experience God's power they believed they had to make exceptional sacrifices for the Father. If they were not blessed in the way they anticipated than something must be wrong and they called upon themselves and others to make greater sacrifices.

These circumstances made the church very vulnerable to another gospel or a return to the law. Many in the church began working to appease God so that they could be loved by Him.

Col 2:16-18

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

KJV

These same kinds of circumstances exist in the church today and so many are working to appease God so that they will be loved by Him.

Jesus did His Father's business and did it well.

Col 2:11-15

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

KJV

The current spiritual recession in the church is not His fault. We have failed to receive God's love and to live in it. This is evident by the way we treat one another in our families and in the church. It is evident by the way we live behind closed doors.

I recently read a testimony of woman who loved her husband in spite of his sin. He left her for another man. After contracting the aids virus, this woman moved back in with her husband to be his caretaker until he died. She then did the same thing for his former lover. Both of these men came to accept her faith as their own before they died.

She did not do this out of shame because her marriage had failed. She did not do this because she had failed as a wife to do enough to love her husband. She had no ambition to do some great work for God. She was just living in the Father's love and this freed her to be about her Father's business when He prompted her to do this. She did it well.

And so can you if you will discover the Father's love and learn to live in His love.

When people ask you why you are doing what you are doing you will be able to say to them...

Luke 2:49

49b Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" NKJV