

## WHY BE NORMAL?

I'd like to share a few thoughts and lots of scriptures with you.

Modern Christians believe many things about Jesus Christ.

They believe that He's the Savior, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. They believe that He's perfect, all-powerful, righteous, and that His name is above every name. They faithfully praise and sing that all these things are true every Sunday.

They profess that He is the head of His body, His church in this world.

And according to the scriptures these things are all true.

If anyone ever challenges these sacred truths, they would be considered a heretic and completely deceived. Everything that they said would be rejected.

All of these things about Christ are actually true. Let's look at the scriptures.

Hebrews 1:3 says

He is the radiance of His glory, the exact representation of the divine nature, and He upholds all things by the word of His power

Colossians 1.19

For it has pleased the Father that all the divine fullness, the sum total of divine perfection, powers, and attributes, should dwell in Him permanently.

Phillipians 2.9 Therefore, because He stooped so low, God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.

Isaiah 9.6

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

These are statements of reality from God about Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One, and are true because God said they are.

But when we talk about ourselves,

We who He declares are the members of the body of Christ, according to 1 Corinthians 12.27,

We who are left here on the planet to be the continuing expression of His eternal life,

And His complete and total victory over Satan

and His representatives, and Ambassadors of His Kingdom, we often profess quite a different picture.

Modern Christians have bought into the idea that we are only sinners saved by grace, and Christians aren't perfect they're only forgiven.

In other words, we've prayed the sinner's prayer and asked Jesus to forgive our sins, but we're pretty much stuck with our old sinful nature inherited from Adam and Eve until the day He returns.

We profess that in the Body of Christ, the head is perfect, righteous, and all-powerful.

But from the neck down, we accept and express the spiritually dead, sinful nature, and all of it's attributes of our old nature that His perfect sacrifice delivered us from.

This idea is justified with the natural rationalization that, we're only human and no one can be perfect. This world has taught us not to be crazy, but to be logical, rational and reasonable.

Conventional wisdom says that, Jesus was a special case, He was supernatural, and no one could ever be like that. Those expectations are unrealistic and you wouldn't want to be disappointed.

So, just do the best you can and He will come and make it alright in the end at the rapture.

In my 58 years as a Christian, I can't tell you how many times I've heard this idea professed. But the scriptures don't bear this out. Let's look at a few scriptures.

John 1.12

But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority, the power, the privilege, and the right to become the children of God, that is to those who believe in, adhere to, trust in, and rely on His name. Who owe their birth neither to bloods nor to the will of the flesh, that of a physical impulse, nor to the will of man, that of a natural father, but to God, **THEY ARE BORN OF GOD!**

2 Corinthians 5.17

Therefore, if any person is engrafted in Christ, the Messiah, he is a new creation, **A NEW CREATURE ALTOGETHER**, the old previous moral and spiritual condition has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come.

1 Corinthians 1.30

By His doing **YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME TO US**, wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Romans 6.6

We know that our old self was crucified, nailed to the cross with Him in order that our body, which is the instrument of sin, might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might **NO LONGER BE SLAVES OF SIN.**

Hebrews 10:10

And in accordance with this will of God, **WE HAVE BEEN MADE HOLY**, consecrated and sanctified, through the offering made once for all of the body of Jesus Christ, the anointed one.

Hebrews 10.14

For by a single offering He has **FOREVER COMPLETELY CLEANSED AND PERFECTED** those who are consecrated and made holy.

The modern Church tends to be professing Christians, claiming to be totally renewed by the life of God, but we continually act as practicing atheists, because we haven't received from the Holy Spirit, the revelation of the reality of what Christ's perfect sacrifice recreated us to be.

Instead, we rely on our history and the natural perception that we received from this world which is under the influence of Satan.

Ephesians 2.1+2 amp  
confirms this.

And you, He made alive, when you were dead, slain by your own trespasses and sins, in which at one time you walked habitually. You were following the course and fashion of this world, you were under the sway of the tendency of this present age, following the prince of the power of the air. You were obedient to and under the control of, the demon spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience, the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving who go against the purposes of God.

Many today, have bought into Satan's lie that the gospel is just one of the many religions on the planet and we're supposed to just join up and do our very best to straighten up our lives and be better people. It's the lie that all religion is good and everybody should be in one.

Religion is done by men and for men. It's part of this fallen world system.

The gospel is supernatural. It's done by God and for God. And He's the only one who can do it.

God actually hates religion, because it's a man-made substitute for a relationship with Him, that only He can create. I know that many will react and probably even take offense at this statement, but look at these following scriptures.

Deuteronomy 5.27

The Jews told Moses after experiencing the presence of God at Mount Sinai.

Go near and hear all that the Lord Our God says, then speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.

V.25

We'll die if He speaks to us anymore. They chose religion over relationship.

Malachi 1.19

When the Jews were offering the sick lambs and the blind sheep as their sacrificial worship to the Lord.

God said, oh that there were even one among you, whose duty it is to minister to me, who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar to no purpose, as an empty, futile, fruitless pretense. I have no pleasure in you, says the Lord of Hosts nor will I accept an offering from your hand.

The only people that Jesus ever cursed, we're religious people.

In John 8.44, Jesus told the Pharisees that, you are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.

Matthew 23.15, He said,

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

He wasn't concerned about style or technique either.

John 4.19-24

The woman at the well spoke to Jesus and said, our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where they ought to worship.

His answer focused on the source of the worship.

He said, but an hour is coming and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

2 Timothy 3.1-5 states that, in the end times,

men will become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of religion, although they have denied its power, and avoid such men as these.

After reading all of these Scriptures, this picture of the body of Christ having a perfect, all-powerful head and a sinful, totally helpless, and sick body, sounds like something out of a horror movie.

It seems crazy that the modern church could accept, rationalize, and justify a reality that's so contrary to the one that God has made available to His children.

Let's look at some more scriptures.

We read in 2nd Corinthians 5:17 that our being in Christ has made us completely new creatures. 1st Corinthians 6:17 also declares that the one who is joined to the Lord is actually one spirit with Him.

Hebrews 1:2 stated that Jesus was the heir of all things, and Romans 8:16 confirms that we are joint heirs with Him of all things.

Ephesians 4:13-15 states that we are to grow to the full measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ and grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head of the body.

2 Peter 1:2-4 states that God has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness and that He has given us His precious promises that we might become partakers of His divine nature.

And because our old man has been crucified with Christ, as Paul declared in Romans 6, we have been resurrected as life-giving spirits with Christ.

God's promise in 1 Corinthians 15:45-48, is that as we have borne the earthly nature, we shall also bear the heavenly one.

And when Jesus describes the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives in John 16:14, He explains that everything that the Father has is Mine, and I'm sending the Holy Spirit to give it to you.

As incredible as these statements of reality about us from God are, some will undoubtedly say, those sound great, but what makes me think He'll do that in my life?

Let's look at Romans chapter 8:29 and it reads,  
For those whom He foreknew, whom He was aware and loved beforehand, He also destined from the beginning, foreordaining them, to be molded into the image of His Son and share inwardly His likeness, that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

And those whom He foreordained, He also called, and those He called, He also justified, acquitted, made righteous, putting them in right standing with Himself.

And those whom He justified, He also glorified, raising them to a Heavenly dignity and condition or state of being.

Paul goes on to ask the question what shall we say to all this?

I believe that the answer our Heavenly Father is looking for is, thank you Daddy!

I've shared an awful lot of scriptures with you here. Let me wrap this up with just a couple more.

Romans 8:2-4 reads,  
For the law of the spirit of life, which is in Christ Jesus, the law of our new being, has freed me from the law of sin and death.

For God has done with the law could not do, its power being weakened by the flesh, the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit. sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, God condemned sin in the flesh, He subdued it, He overcame it, He deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice,  
So that the righteous and just requirement of the law might be fully met in us who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit, our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Please note in all the scriptures that I've shared today, the person creating these realities for us is God Himself. He's the only one who can do it and He did it for us before we even asked.

As I said many times before, the gospel is just like God. It's spiritual, perfect, supernatural, and eternal. There is nothing natural about it.

Religion is content to try and serve God with the fallen, un-fixable nature, that God has delivered us from.

But with God making His eternal life, our inheritance, and our life,  
It begs the question,

WHY BE NORMAL?

God bless you.

Jim Fuller