

I REFUSE

I'd like to start by telling you a story. It's a true story. It happened in October 1972. A professional rugby team from Uruguay was flying to Santiago Chile for a rugby tournament.

As they were flying over the Andes mountains which are about 11000 feet the pilot made a critical error and flew too close to the mountains. Turbulents caused the plane to drop a 1000 feet and sheared off the wings and the plane crashed in the mountains.

The pilot was way off course and all the search and rescue missions were focused in the wrong area. The 46 passengers lived in the wreckage of that plane for 2 1/2 months. In sub-zero temperatures, blizzards, avalanches, with no water, minimal food, and critical injuries.

They got very creative and used all of their wits and wisdom to find ways to stay alive and survived until 2 of them tied seat bottoms to their feet like snow shoes, and hiked 44 miles to a very remote village and they were rescued. Only 16 of the 46 passengers survived.

You're probably saying why would you create a video to tell us that story? Well, I'm going to tell you another true story and use this one as an analogy for what I want to share today.

In Genesis chapter 1, God breathed His supernatural eternal life into a pile of mud and created man in His image and likeness. Man lived with God in the garden of Eden and God gave man His authority to manifest His kingdom over the entire planet.

But God also told man not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and if he did, he would surely die.

Satan lied to Eve and manipulated her to think that if she ate of that fruit, she would become wise, she would be completely independent from God and wouldn't have to answer to anybody, and she would be like God.

She and Adam both ate the fruit and Satan's incredible sales pitch produced the exact opposite. They ended up separated from God, scratching out an existence in this world by their own efforts, full of frustration, sickness, and eventually death.

Satan has not stopped with his sales pitches. Our existence in this world is continually portrayed to us as a wealth of endless possibilities just waiting for someone with a big dream, strong motivation, and lots of hard work to create a life of their own making that would be the envy of the whole world. Even the army encourages us to "be all that we can be."

The reality is that God is the source of all life. Our existence in this world's systems is actually the wreckage from God's original creation. We may scratch and claw with all of our wits all of our wisdom and all of our determination but the final result is death. It's permanent and it's eternal.

I'm sure that you've all heard that God accepts us just as we are. But he has no intention of leaving us that way.

Man was created by God and for God. Man is God's supreme creation to manifest His love, His life, His authority, and His kingdom rule over this entire Earth until the glory of the Lord covers the Earth as the waters cover the sea.

God had no intention of leaving His greatest creation to scuffle in the wreckage. His supernatural plan to restore man back to what He originally created him to be, can only be done by God.

No human effort, religious or otherwise could have accomplished God's supernatural plan.

Here's how we did it. He put all of mankind in Christ. Then whatever happened to Christ also happened to mankind. And you know what happened to Christ.

Man was crucified with Christ, buried with Christ, raised from the dead to a completely new life. That life is the same one that God originally gave Adam and Eve. It was God's supernatural eternal life. Man was then seated at the right hand of God with Christ as a member of His family.

Christ didn't just die for us, we actually died with Him.

Now some people will say that's crazy! Nobody could do that. Nobody in the wreckage could do that. That's why I said God's the only one who could do this for us and He did it before we even asked, because He loves us and created us to be His children.

And the best part is, THERE IS NO RELIGION REQUIRED!

Just a childlike faith in God's supernatural work that says Daddy, I don't want to live in the wreckage anymore. I want to be what you actually created me to be.

Now here's the thing, none of us volunteered for this life in the wreckage. We inherited it from Adam and Eve.

Let me read a scripture to you. It's John chapter 1 verse 12.

But to as many as did receive *and* welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, *that is*, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].

As His children we inherit His life and receive His original destiny for us to manifest His life, His love, and His Kingdom over this entire Earth, so that everybody on this planet can be set free from the wreckage and become members of His family.

It's really a very simple program. The problem is that it's totally supernatural and God's the only one who can do it.

I mean, look around your neighborhood, your state, or your country. All of us crashed and burned together. But like little kids, we've said, Daddy, we don't want to live in the wreckage anymore, we want to be what you created us to be.

I'll be completely honest with you. Satan is still trying to lie to us and convince us that we'll never get free from the wounds and brokenness caused by the wreckage.

And a lot of people have believed those lies. Many people say things like sure, Jesus forgave my sins and I can go to heaven when I die, but be realistic, I'm going to have to live with this old nature forever. I'm only a survivor of the wreckage. I'm only a sinner saved by grace and there's nothing I can do about it.

But God says otherwise. He says that we've been transferred out of the kingdom of this world, out of the wreckage, into the kingdom of God, into His presence, and into His family.

The scriptures say that He has saved us to the uttermost. That means completely, perfectly, and eternally. It means that we've been set free, never to be bound again.

God has given us His Holy Spirit as the guaranty of possessing this mind-boggling inheritance. Not to try to fix up our old nature, but to create God's new nature in us.

We're ALL still a work in progress. We're still learning how to accept and to reject.

Learning to accept everything that God is made available to us as our inheritance.
And learning to reject everything that Satan tries to get us to accept from the wreckage.

But, we are ALL learning to declare, I REFUSE TO LIVE IN THE WRECKAGE ANYMORE!

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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