

"The Search for Significance"
February 22, 2015

**2 Corinthians 5:14-17 (Note: "all died" signals an end to the old way of life!)
Ephesians 1:11 MSG- "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we
are living for!"**

**CORE: Salvation is a crisis that initiates us into a process—in which we
discover who our "new self" really is—the person Jesus made us to be.**

1. INIQUITY is the reason we struggle to discover who we are.

**Def.- INIQUITY is SIN as it affects my children's children's children. Lit.- That
which "twists" and is able to "bend" a whole family. No one "sins to himself."**

- **We have "roots" that go all the way back to Adam**
- **In addition, we have "family roots" that influence us today.**
- *This is not to lay all the blame on our ancestors. THEY are responsible for what they did. WE are responsible to God for how we REACT to what they did.*

**The IDEAL family started with God, the Eternal Father, who poured out
unconditional love and clear identity on His first son and daughter.**

- **They were secure in His love and their identity.**
- **They found meaning for their existence.**
- **They were FULLY ALIVE.**

THE FALL opened the door to sin and iniquity—passed to generations.

- **PAIN-FILLED HEARTS.**
- **VOID OF IDENTITY.**
- **OBLIVIOUS TO UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.**

2. HOW INIQUITY is passed from generation to generation.

Children don't have "editing ability" that adults have.

- **Sinful things can be said & done to them**
- **What they "hear" is that they are "less than" and "unlovable."**
- *(Either through active or passive abuse) the shame that Adam brought on himself is reinforced in the heart of that child. Family iniquity puts fuel on the fire that Adam started.*

**[NOTE: Death of a parent, divorce, emotionally absent parents, "too busy"
parents, verbal or physical abuse, religious rules w/o relationship, etc....can
all be interpreted that we are "unlovable" when we are children.**

3. The effect of INIQUITY in adulthood is THE SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE.

CRISIS moments (i.e., salvation, baptism of the H.S.) don't "instantly" make everything right...they just START THE PROCESS.

The process continues as we LEARN TO LET GO OF COUNTERFEIT SOURCES OF WORTH.

- clinging to performance, or the "perfect" mate, or wealth (*how much is he worth?*), or "gossip" (*I have info that makes me "better" than someone else*).
- Deep within, we are longing for GOD'S ATTENTION.

4. Jesus came, not just to deal with SINS—He came to deal with INIQUITY (*the way that sin has TWISTED US.*)

He dealt with INIQUITY "in His own Body" (1 Peter 2:24) (*not in "A Galaxy Far, Far Away"—this was "up close and personal" with Him!*)

Your redemption took place in His Body on the cross.

But that's where you experienced the ultimate impact of SIN & INIQUITY—in your body (within your own soul, mind, emotions, health).

5. Jesus SUFFERED.

- Jesus: I will "suffer and rise from the dead on the third day" (Lk. 24:46)
- Heb. 13:12- "Jesus suffered outside the gate"
- Isa. 53: "Smitten...afflicted...pierced...crushed"

When OT Passover lambs were slain--it was done in the most humane way possible. Yet, when Jesus shed His blood—He suffered. If the whole issue is His blood, why then the suffering?

HIS BLOOD paid for your sins.

HIS SUFFERING was to reverse the curse of our INIQUITIES.

Why was Judas allowed into the band of disciples? Approved by the Father who knew what was in Judas' heart.

- Jesus trusted Judas with the finances.
- (NOTE: I don't believe that Jesus knew that Judas was a betrayer. He received a word from the Father that "one of you will betray Me." He shared the word. When Judas revealed it by leaving the room, Jesus "became deeply troubled"—His moment of painful discovery).
- "Troubled"--pained in the depth of His being. Strong word describing a strong emotion. When Jesus spoke of this later, He used a word that means "divorce"—*the painful separation from a trusted friend*. One of His best friends stabbed Him in the back.)

6. Jesus TOOK OUR INIQUITIES.

- **Jesus experienced your divorce pains, rejection, betrayal of trusted friends. The shock of discovering what's in the hearts of people you trust. (i.e., Peter and the rest of the disciples)**
- **He experienced the emotional abuse of abandonment.** NOTE: When questioned by Pilate if anyone could defend Him, Jesus said, "Ask those who've been with Me." John was there (he recorded the event in his gospel); Peter may have been there too. But no one stepped forward. Silence shouted.
- **Physical abuse**—severely beaten at the hands of the soldiers & the crowd.
- **Sexually abused.** Naked on the cross...for everyone to gawk at...stripped against His will. In any judge's book--that is sexual abuse. He carried the defilement of sexual abuse **"in His own body."**

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

- **"HIS CUP" included all of the experiences of shame and abuse. "He tasted this death"!**
- **"Surely our griefs He bore, our sorrows He carried..." SEE Isaiah 53. By His "scourging" we are healed...that which cut into His soul (as well as His body).**
- **"GOD SO LOVED the world"--He didn't reject us...He JOINED US. And suffered "in His body" what we suffer in ours!**
- **He took our shame--yet, He "despised the shame" (i.e., to ignore one thing because you are focused on another) He was so busy demonstrating that HE LOVED US, He refused to be distracted. In other words, He was so focused on the shame He was removing from us--He could not be distracted by the shame that was put on Him!)**
- **He took this to His grave...sealed with a stone---SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR PAST'S POWER TO CONTROL YOU! i.e., The folded "facecloth"**

You can say goodbye to the old man...and hello to the new one. Goodbye to the "kingdom of darkness" and live life in "the Kingdom of the Son He loves" (the Land of Father's love).

Let Him take the INIQUITY. The shameful impact of generational sin on your heart.

- 1. Bring it to the light (There's nothing hidden to Him, anyway)**
- 2. Let Him CLEANSE YOU**
- 3. Forgive those who have ABUSED/DEFILED YOU**