

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.  
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

# Male Call

## July 18, 2008—Atonement—Relationship Restored: Me With Me—Part V

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>1) <i>We Have Been Lied To!</i> (2Corinthians 11:14) I have trouble penetrating my web of self-deceptions and knowing this real me...The roots of our pretend self lie in our childhood discovery that we can secure love by presenting ourselves in the most flattering light...we learn to fake it, appearing as we think important others want us to be and ignoring the evidence to the contrary.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>a) My view of <u>who I think I should be</u> is influenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) My parents</li> <li>ii) My self</li> <li>iii) My family</li> <li>iv) My friends</li> <li>v) My culture</li> <li>vi) Satan</li> <li>vii) Other things?</li> </ul> <p>This view of self generally arises from affirmation and love we have received. We believe this self leads to “life” (love and affirmation). It is the self we consciously and unconsciously strive for.</p> <p>b) My view of <u>who I really am but am afraid to be</u> is influenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) My parents</li> <li>ii) My self</li> <li>iii) My family</li> <li>iv) My friends</li> <li>v) My culture</li> <li>vi) Satan</li> <li>vii) Other things?</li> </ul> <p>This view of self generally arises from me taking a critical look at myself and from criticism from outside of ourselves. We believe this self leads to “death” (rejection). It is the self we hide, consciously and unconsciously, at all costs.</p> <p>c) “Mind the Gap”</p>

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. 61.

- i) The “gap” between who I think I should be and who I think I am provides major motivational force in our lives.
  - ii) It is a hole, created in me “then” that I try to fix by my behavior “now.”
- d) BOTH OF THESE SELVES ARE LIES
- i) The me I believe I should be is who I would create me to be if I were God.
  - ii) The me I believe I am is the me I hate (the beast), but that I believe God has created.
  - iii) Jeremiah 17:9

Spiritual transformation involves the purification of sight...We have to learn to see—and to accept—what is really there...To see God as God is—not who we want God to be—requires that we see our self as we really are. For the same cloud of illusions obscures our view of both God and ourselves.<sup>2</sup>

We do not find our true self by seeking it. Rather, we find it by seeking God.<sup>3</sup>

- 2) Consequences?
  - a) What are the consequences in our lives of believing these lies?
- 3) *God Offers Us Truth!*
  - a) John 8:31-47

### Who I Am In Christ<sup>4</sup>

#### *I am accepted...*

**John 1:12**

I am God's child.

**John 15:15**

As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 5:1**

I have been justified.

**1 Corinthians 6:17**

I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.

**1 Corinthians 12:27**

I am a member of Christ's body.

**Ephesians 1:3-8**

I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.

**Colossians 1:13-14**

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

**Colossians 2:9-10**

I am complete in Christ.

**Hebrews 4:14-16** □

I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

#### *I am secure...*

**Romans 8:1-2**

I am free from condemnation.

**Romans 8:28**

I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.

**Romans 8:31-39**

I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 63.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 92.

<sup>4</sup> Based on Anderson. 51-53.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. 53.

	<p>separated from the love of God.</p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 1:21-22</b> I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.</p> <p><b>Colossians 3:1-4</b> I am hidden with Christ in God.</p> <p><b>Philippians 1:6</b> I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.</p> <p><b>Philippians 3:20</b> I am a citizen of heaven.</p> <p><b>2 Timothy 1:7</b> I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.</p> <p><b>1 John 5:18</b> I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.</p> <p><i>I am significant...</i></p> <p><b>John 15:5</b> I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.</p> <p><b>John 15:16</b> I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.</p> <p><b>1 Corinthians 3:16</b> I am God's temple.</p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 5:17-21</b> I am a minister of reconciliation for God.</p> <p><b>Ephesians 2:6</b> I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.</p> <p><b>Ephesians 2:10</b> I am God's workmanship.</p> <p><b>Ephesians 3:12</b> I may approach God with freedom and confidence.</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:13</b> I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.</p> <p>The more you reaffirm who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your true identity!<sup>5</sup></p> <p>4) What Next?</p> <p>a) How do we begin to cooperate with God in the transformational process?</p> <p>b) Come back next week!</p>
7:00	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p>If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--Jesus (Luke 9:23)</p> <p>Every morning I must say again to myself, today I start.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--St. Anthony of the Desert<sup>6</sup></p>

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Anderson, Neil T. *Victory Over The Darkness*. Regal Books. 2000.
- Benner, David G. *Surrender to Love*. IVP Books. 2003.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Gift of Being Yourself*. Eagle Publishing. 2004.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Desiring God's Will*. IVP Books. 2005.

<sup>6</sup> Quoted in Benner, *Surrender to Love*. 75.

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- - Burrows, Ruth. *Guidelines for Mystical Prayer*. Burns & Oates. 2007.
  - Chambers, O. *My Utmost for His Highest: Selections for the Year*. Discovery House Publishers. 1993, c1935
  - Dubay, Thomas. *The Fire Within*. Ignatius Press. 1989.
  - Neuhaus, Richard John. *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. Basic Books. 2000.
  - Sandford, John & Paula. *The Transformation of the Inner Man*. Victory House. 1982.
  - Wakefield, James L. *Sacred Listening: discovering the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola*. Baker Books, 2006.