

## What Jesus Accomplished at the Cross (He accomplished EVERYTHING) The Permanent Gift of the Holy Spirit

### 1. Review of what Jesus did on Calvary:

- a. **Secured our Forgiveness** (for sin) – *forgiveness is defined as the process of concluding resentment, indignation or anger as a result an offense and/or ceasing to demand punishment or restitution.[1] The Oxford English Dictionary defines forgiveness as 'to grant free pardon and to give up all claim on account of an offense or debt'.*
  - i. Sin is an offense against God, it is a violation of His standards and His Holiness. Sin must be punished.
  - ii. We learned that the basis of forgiveness in the Old Testament was the sacrifice of animals, their “innocent” life in exchange for the guilty one.
  - iii. Forgiveness was offered through atoning sacrifices that the Law required.
  - iv. The demands of the law demonstrate how expensive/costly sin is.
  - v. “the wages of sin is death” “the one who sins must die for his own sin”
- b. **Expiated our Sin** – removed our sin from us, not just covered over it (like the Old Testament).
  - i. Atonement was primarily a covering over of sin. But the blood of bulls and lambs cannot remove sin. (Hebrews 10:4).
  - ii. Stain remover is what Jesus applied in the form of His own blood. Sin leaves a stain that nothing but the blood of the perfect sacrifice of Christ can remove.
  - iii. The sacrifice of Christ cleanses us from the SOURCE of alienation from God resulting in reconciling us in our relationship with God.
  - iv. All of this was necessary to restore something that was lost a long time ago.

### 2. Restored our Intimacy with Father.

- a. **Intimacy = into me see.** (see into me).
- b. Before I start, let me share a disclaimer. I have to honestly say that I know very little about what it means to be truly intimate. From my own wounding, my upbringing, my relationships during my formative years and the faulty beliefs I had for most of my life before and after I met Christ, I have a very stunted practical understanding of what it means to be intimate. I imagine that many of us here have similar experiences. So I invite you to join me on a journey of discovery and overcoming our failures today! **Let's Pray.**
- c. *Intimacy is the state or condition of having the capacity to relate to another person in an emotionally open, equal, and caring way. Intimacy consists of a close, trusting, confidential relationship between two people who are completely at ease with one another and feel free to express their innermost feelings.*
  - i. Intimacy is characterized by:
    1. Interdependence - as opposed to dependence, codependence or independence.
    2. Mutuality - tendency to think of each other as "us" not just I or me.
    3. Trust - the expectation that one partner will treat the other fairly, warmly, and honorably and honestly.
    4. Commitment- Expectation that their partnerships will continue, and invest personally in that expectation.
  - ii. Have you experienced these in your relationship with God?
  - iii. **Intimacy is not a static moment like a statue but a reciprocal movement like a dance.**
  - iv. It grows with trust, courage, self-disclosure and feedback and withers without them.

3. **Adam and Eve had a perfect, intimate relationship with God.**
  - a. They got to talk with God, walk with Him, I speculate that they probably could see Him to some degree, keeping in mind they were flesh and bone and God is Spirit.
  - b. They were naked and had no need of covering because of innocence and because their intimacy with God was perfect. Nothing came between them and God.
  - c. We were all created for intimacy with God.
    - i. Not like the rest of creation which was created to serve God in some function.
    - ii. We were created to intimately interact with the God who created us.
  
4. The bible says that Adam and Eve were created in His image and likeness.
  - a. They were physical beings with a Spirit.
  - b. God is a Spiritual Being. And until the incarnation, God was not a physical being.
    - i. God is Spirit and not a material being---we do not look like God physically.
    - ii. The image of our Creator which we all bear is primarily an invisible, inner likeness. In regard to attributes of personality, mind, creativity, capacity for love and express emotions, the existence of will, conscience, imagination, memory and moral responsibility, and capacity for worship---God has made us very much like Himself.
    - iii. We are intended to live simultaneously in two worlds: the physical and the spiritual. The Bible reveals that man is a tripartite being, body, soul, and spirit. The presence of a living spirit in us is what determines the difference between a corpse and a living person (see James 2:26).
  
5. John 15:4-5 *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* (NASB)
  - a. The word the NASB translates "abide" is translated as "remain" in the NIV and the NLT. The Amplified Bible switches between "dwell", "live", and "abide". The Message uses "live", "make your home in", and "join with".
  - b. There are people who are skeptical about this whole intimacy with God thing. They think that the whole point of this passage in John 15 is about the requirement to bear fruit and keep the faith.
    - i. Where is the theme of intimacy? It is in the fact that we have a **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus and not a religious relationship.
    - ii. It is **ALL** about intimacy.
    - iii. The secret life of Jesus was found in his contact with the Father; again and again he withdrew into a solitary place to meet him and be intimate together in their relationship. We must keep contact with Jesus. We cannot do that unless we deliberately take steps to do it. For example, to pray in the morning, if it be for only a few moments, is to have an antiseptic for the whole day; for we cannot come out of the presence of Christ and touch evil things. It will mean a constant contact with him. It will mean arranging life, arranging prayer, arranging silence in such a way that there is never a day when we give ourselves a chance to forget him.
  
6. **Mankind was created to REFLECT God.**
  - a. Our relationship with God was designed so that the result of our intimacy with God would be that we would accurately reflect Him to the rest of creation.
  - b. Reflection requires intimacy.
    - i. Nothing coming between us and God.
    - ii. We are a mirror. God is the Light, the Image, the Perfection.
    - iii. Nothing was supposed to come between the light and the mirror.
  - c. It is what Jesus modeled for us while on earth was that perfect, intimate, relationship with the Father.
  - d. Looking at what the bible says about Jesus:

- i. Col.1:15 *“He is (in) the image of the invisible God.”*
  1. Christ alone is this perfect image.
  2. On earth, while His divinity was masked behind His humanity, He made the Father clearly known by reflecting Him in His fullness.
  3. *“John 14:7-9 “If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”*
  4. Jesus in His humanity, so perfectly reflected the Father that one could say “If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.”
  5. It was what mankind was called to do. Jesus, the perfect human did it perfectly.
    - a. Ah, you say, but He was God, so it was easy for Him to do!
    - b. We are fallible and sinful and we aren’t God, so we can’t really do it like Jesus.
  6. We are not God – but in our humanity, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are capable of reflecting the Father, not so perfectly, but definitely able and called to reflect the Father!
    - a. But intimacy is costly.
    - b. Remember that thing we just defined...interdependence, vulnerability, honesty, closeness, **Intimacy requires honesty with God.** It requires vulnerability. But at Calvary, the capacity for honesty without fear was procured for us by the death and resurrection of our Savior!

## 7. Honesty and Intimacy:

- a. True intimacy doesn’t come in an instant. It takes time. If we want to be close to the Lord, we must spend time with Him — getting to know Him — His heart — His character. And we must learn to be honest with Him and ourselves.
- b. Learning to be honest often costs quite a lot. Depending on your co-pay, it can cost over \$100 an hour in a counselor’s office. Although, it is unlikely that you are honest until the fourth or fifth sessions.
- c. Honesty is so hard when it comes to our sin. The energy required to hide all of those things is enormous. Whole lives are built on cover-up or avoidance. In a sense, we are afraid of who we might really be.
- d. God’s not afraid of who we really are.
  - i. God is the best at our worst.
  - ii. You don’t believe that. And, neither do I.
  - iii. But, I would like to.
- e. **The Bible calls self-honesty confession.**
  - i. It calls the practice of self-honesty ‘walking in the light.’ 1 John 1:5-2:2.
  - ii. There is an incredible invitation in that passage - to come clean, to step into the light. It says that our relationship with God will never be right unless we do it. And our relationships with others won’t be that great either.
    1. We’ll be too busy trying hard to prove how good we are.
    2. Or worse, we’ll feel so badly about ourselves that we retreat more and more into our own self-condemnation.
    3. Actually, there’s something even worse than that – filling our lives with achievement, performance, the pursuit of things that don’t matter. Ah, yes, the good life.
    4. The self-condemning person, at least, is possibly open to their need.
    5. The self-assured person is nearly totally unreachable.

- iii. This is why the sacrifice of Christ is so central to our lives...making it possible for us to become intimate, honest with God, because no longer are we judged on our performance but rather, Christ took our judgement, and we are accepted/acceptable to God.
  - f. God's goal is not to make us feel miserable about ourselves. Christ came so that we might be free – and that requires being honest.
    - i. Loving people incredibly well means that you give them space to be honest. And it means you start first..
    - ii. What good or bad images occur to you when you hear the word confession?
    - iii. Do you feel distant from the Lord? Let's commit to spending some special time with Him — not only making requests and telling Him about our problems, but maybe listening a little. Perhaps there are some things He'd like to tell us!
- 8. And in all of this, Jesus purchased for us, the right to be vessels for the Holy Spirit to dwell within. And the Holy Spirit, how we take Him so lightly, so for granted! How we fail to listen, to be intimate, to draw near in the inner sanctuary of our spirit to meet with Him.
  - a. It is the Holy Spirit, the mystery of the Ages, “Christ in you , the Hope of glory” that the world has awaited, that the prophets longed for, and that we have!
  - b. The Holy Spirit, a treasury of intimacy, so valuable and expected and desired that David cried out in the Old testament that God not take the Holy Spirit from him!
  - c. Psalm 51:10-12 *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”*
    - i. David experienced a break in his intimacy with God over Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah. It was a wrenching experience, from a man who was very intimate with God, to cry out these words!
    - ii. The Holy Spirit is our mode and method of spiritual intimacy with God.
    - iii. We must choose to develop intimacy with our Lord and Savior, read God's love letter to us...spend time with Him in prayer.
    - iv. Abiding is another term for intimacy with Christ our Lord. He wants to express His life through us...that comes from being attached to Him. If our prayer is only a matter of shooting up a “911” emergency petition whenever trouble surfaces, we are missing the intimacy! If we get up in the morning reading our daily devotions just to get them out of the way, there's a misunderstanding about “abiding.

## 9. □Conclusion and Test of our Hearts:

- 10. In the New Testament The Holy Spirit comes to stay. Why? Because we have been expiated of our sin, justified with God, and now washed clean. We are a fit vessel for the Holy One to live in, even when our lives don't always match up to our redemption.
  - a. But what is missing? When was the last time you heard the Holy Spirit speak softly and clearly to you? Could it be that you aren't in the intimacy level that is required to hear the heart of God?
  - b. Why do you think that is so? Is there unconfessed or unrepented sin in our lives?
  - c. Or is there an attitude of busyness or unconcern?
  - d. **Have we given our heart to another?** Has something stolen God's place in our hearts? That is why we have no capacity for intimacy with Him. There is a good reason for the silent treatment!