

Theme for 2020

I AM WHAT ‘YOU’ SEE!

‘LORD, Open My Eyes, Help Me Believe, I Am What YOU See.’

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light... Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God—you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you. The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day. Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I’ll never comprehend them! I couldn’t even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you.”

Matthew 6:22 (MSG); Psalm 139:13-18 (MSG)



This Week’s Thought – November 8, 2020

“Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Colossians 3:13 (NRSV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” Undoubtedly, 2020 has been a year of relational extremes. On the one hand, we as a society have spent the year isolated from one another in ways no one alive today has ever experienced. Routines have been upended, habits altered, and patterns of living eliminated entirely. As a result, cherished family holidays have been postponed, weddings, graduation and birthday celebrations cancelled, and work-related travel digitally reimaged. On the other hand, in the face of such relational isolation, we have been pressed into new rhythms of relationship with those closest to us, usually those living together under the same roof or within the same immediate family. Thus, we are simultaneously isolated as never before, and at the same time find ourselves in a heightened form of relational connectivity and intimacy with a few select people, and it is this latter group that I want to focus upon today.

In Colossians 3, Paul exhorts this young church to bear with one another in love, forgiving just as we have been forgiven by our Lord. It is good to remember that the early Christian communities were humble and intimate, functioning more like a family than a programmatically driven organization.

November 8, 2020

As such, Paul’s words were less born out of his finely tuned deductive skills and more from a simple knowledge of the human condition: **greater proximity requires greater grace.**

From my younger years listening to my Grandmothers, to my adult years listening to others, I’ve heard people referred to as those for whom “extra grace was required.” I’m sure you’ve heard that phrase before as well, maybe even used it at one time or another. My understanding is that this was a way of someone saying, they didn’t care too much for someone! However, I wonder if you have been surprised during this pandemic by the people requiring “extra grace” in your own life? A parent? A spouse? A child? A significant other? A family member or friend? Etc. Instead of a steady longstanding relationship, perhaps the disruptive rhythms of this year have forced you into uncharted relational waters with those you love the most.

Listen...even the most cherished relationships require ongoing patience, trust, and mutual respect. In fact, the closer you are, the more this will be tested! So, take Paul’s words to heart today, and as you remember the endless compassion and tender mercy of our Lord Jesus, choose today to bear with those you love, in love.

“I am who You say I am! I am God’s workmanship, created in Christ unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (1 Peter 2:9). I am greatly loved by God (Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12). I AM WHAT ‘YOU’SEE!’”

Application: Who has required “more or extra grace” from you over the past 8 months? How can you look to Jesus today and ask Him to renew in you your commitment to live a life of forgiveness towards those you love?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear Lord, You are a loving, gracious God, whose love is perfect and never fails. I know that nothing can separate me from Your love. I pray that my life would be filled and overflowing with the Power of Your love, so I can make a difference in this world and bring honor to You. I ask for Your help in reminding me that the most important things are not what I do outwardly. It’s not based on any talent or gift, but the most significant thing I can do in this life is simply to love You and to choose to love others. Lord I thank You that Your love is patient and kind. Help me show patience with those around me. Help me to extend kindness to others. Help me cast aside feelings of jealousy or hatred towards others. Just as You have forgiven me, I know I also must forgive. **This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”**

Yours in Christ, Pastor King