

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, April 11, 2010
Your Real Life

Default mode is a term I use to describe our actions that are not being guided by the Holy Spirit. Although the Bible teaches that when we come to Christ we become a new creation with all things becoming new, one thing remains. That is our memory. We remember how we always did things in the past. We remember how we reacted when someone cut us off on the highway and our blood pressure rose giving way for any expletives and gestures that came to mind. We remember what it was like to think of ourselves first and feel justified in it. Now, as a new creation, we have a whole new way of looking at things. Our minds have been illuminated with the presence of the Living God who is more than just a ramped up aspect of our conscience. It is the Holy Spirit giving us a brand new perspective on life. It's not just about me. It's about him: his Kingdom, his priorities, his perspective, his love, his will for our lives. The Christian life cannot be taken for granted. Just like a marriage it needs daily attention. Nothing is automatic! We don't coast along. Like a garden left to itself, weeds will grow and complicate what could have been wonderful. Default mode for the garden left unattended is to grow weeds.

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians in 5:14-21 that he used to view Christ from a worldly point of view. He meant that he saw him merely as a man that was disrupting his way of life. Jesus was an obstacle in Paul's self-centered world of Pharisaical religious thinking. Namely, that his righteousness came from what he did to please God by a ridged application of the law. Then he got saved and realized that there was nothing he could do to become acceptable to God on his own. Rather, God in Christ reconciled the world to himself not counting men's sins against them. ***God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*** Our acceptance to God came completely from what he did for us and our faith in that process.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians he paints the picture that we are not only on this planet, but have been raised up with Christ who is seated at the right hand of God. Our very life is now hidden with Christ in God. We are here, but we are also there. He goes on to say that Christ is our life. Therefore the mistaken idea that we just get a ticket from Jesus to get to Heaven needs to be eradicated. He did not just forgive us our debts and hand us a ticket that we possess. He gave us his very life so that the two have become one. It is a marriage. It is a union. It is true spiritual life. He said we used to live like the world, but now because of this union we need to ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*** Our old self was removed and we put on the new self with the ability to have Christ rule and reign in our hearts. We don't have to live the old way any longer.

Another teaching Paul emphasizes is that our bodies are the temple of God. **1 Corinthians 3:16**
Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? In chapter 6:15 he says: ***Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?*** Then he says if someone is sexually immoral they are actually uniting Christ to that act. In other words, he is there with us in all that we do. He never leaves us or forsakes us. We are not our own. We were bought at a price. So he tells us: ***Therefore honor God with your body.*** Jesus is our very life and gives us the ability to live with the highest ideals, the best motives, the greatest enjoyment, the noblest purpose, and the greatest potential we could ever imagine. Let's not sell ourselves short! Let's allow Jesus to be himself in and through us for his glory and our thorough enjoyment!