

What Jesus Wants

February 24, 2019

1. Jesus wants me to be a part of His body.

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Ephesians 4:3-7, 11-13

"I have known many happy marriages, but never a compatible one. The whole aim of marriage is to fight through and survive the instant when incompatibility becomes unquestionable. For a man and woman, as such, are incompatible."

G. K. Chesterton

We're all ultimately incompatible. If I were to meet my exact clone, it would be just a matter of time before I and me would go our separate ways. We'd have some toast, quote Monty Python lines to each other, share some laughs...and then start getting really annoyed.

Brant Hansen, Blessed are the Misfit

Our refusal to break up, our refusal to isolate out of a desire for convenience or fear of being hurt is evidence of life. It's also evidence that grace is real and it works.

Brant Hansen, Blessed are the Misfit

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:20-21 NIV

2. God wants me to be using the gifts that He has given me to bless other people.

If I isolate myself, if I pull away from intentional community with

Jesus-followers, I rob people of what I can bring to their lives. This sounds arrogant, but it's the same with everyone. If you think you can bring nothing, you are mistaken. People often aren't aware of their own gifts or devalue them. If you put stock in Scripture, you have to accept that God has given you something to add to build up others in that context. If I isolate myself, I'm being selfish.

Brant Hansen, Blessed are the Misfit

3. He wants me to have the opportunity to forgive others the way He has forgiven me.

"Blessed are the People who do Church Anyway."

1. *Humans are hypocritical. They're deceptive. They tend to be obsessed with themselves. They're not as logical as they think they are. They're often blindly judgmental. They complain. And gossip too. They are - only sometimes unwittingly - cruel. They desperately want to feel good about themselves. They're prone to addiction. And so forth and so on.*
2. *I'm all that stuff too.*
3. *I have to love people anyway.*
4. *Recognizing the truth of point 2 really helps me with point 3.*

*I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, **has overcome** so as to open the book and its seven seals." And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who*

*sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; **for You were slain,** and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. "You have made them [to be] a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.
Revelation 5:1-9*

Wounds:

Painful, extremely tender to the touch

Needs special care and attention

Open to infection

Oozes on whatever it touches

Others are aware it's there

Scars:

Not painful

Does not need any care

Closed - no possibility of infection

Does not ooze

Others are not aware unless you show them

4. Jesus wants me to be here because it's the only way that I can grow into the person that is like Him.

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, **He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;*

Romans 8:28-29