

Keys to Fulfillment: Redemption - The Image of God Restored

Introduction

- A. When we consider the meaning of our sinful rejection of God in the light of His absolute holiness - we cannot fathom the love that would make our redemption possible. God has not rejected us, He has come to rescue us.
- B. It is vitally important, in all of our discussion of redemption, to remember that we have been re-created according to the former pattern of the image of God. This also means that we have been re-established in the eternal plan to bring glory to God by giving Jesus Christ preeminence in all things.

I. The Biblical Statement:

- A. The Scripture: II Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:1-11.
- B. Jesus Christ came into the world as our Representative. He came to fulfill the law which we did not keep (Rom. 5:19; 8:3,4) and to pay the penalty which we could not pay (Gal. 3:13; 4:4,5). He has set us free from the bondage of sin, death and Satan and has given us eternal life in the relationship of adoption.

II. The Biblical Explanation:

A. The character of redemption.

- 1. It is personal: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died to redeem person. John 10:11,14,28,29; Acts 20:28; Galatians 2:20
- 2. It is historical: Jesus Christ, died and rose again, as our Representative, in historical transactions. Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:30-32; I Cor. 15:1-8.
- 3. It is once-for-all: Jesus Christ in His Crucifixion and Resurrection, redeemed His people in a single representative transaction. Heb. 7:27; 9:26-28; 10:10-14

B. The product of redemption.

- 1. The reality of our death and resurrection in Jesus Christ.
 - a. Romans 6:3; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3 - We (the old "I") died in the Crucifixion.
 - b. Romans 6:6 - The "old man" (old nature) was crucified.
 - c. Romans 6:4; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1 - We (the new "I") was raised in the Resurrection.
 - d. Romans 6:4; Eph. 4:25 - We were given a "new man" (new nature) in the Resurrection.
- 2. The believer's twofold relationship with God.

	Crucifixion	Resurrection	Ascension	Pentecost
Salvation	Justification	Eternal Life	Deliverance from Satan	New Birth & Holy Spirit Baptism
Sanctification	Daily Cleansing	Daily Enablement	Daily Freedom	Daily Anointing
Exhortation	Eph. 4:22	Eph. 4:24	Eph. 4:27	Eph. 5:18

III. The Biblical Meaning:

A. Our Present Condition in Jesus Christ.

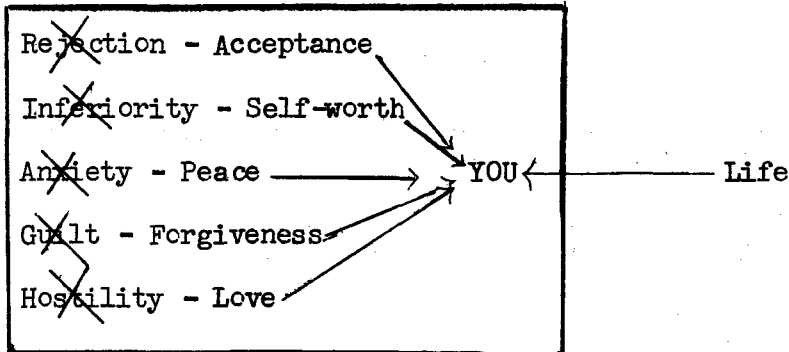
1. All that we were in the Fall was dealt with in the Crucifixion. We died in Christ.
2. All that we were in Adam before the Fall, and more, has been re-established in our lives. We have been raised to newness of life in the Resurrection.
3. This has reversed our condition.
 - a. Once alienated - now accepted, Ephesians 1:6.
 - b. Once guilty - now forgiven, Colossians 2:13.
 - c. Once unrighteous - now righteous, Romans 5:19.
 - d. Once dead - now alive, Ephesians 2:1-6.
 - e. Once enslaved - now free, John 8:32,36.

B. Our Possible Experience in Jesus Christ.

1. Unlimited potentiality for ~~sinfulness~~ . . . for goodness.
2. Unlimited potentiality for ~~inability~~ . . . for creativity.
3. Unlimited potentiality for ~~unfulfillment~~ . . . for fulfillment.
4. Unlimited potentiality for ~~alienation~~ . . . for fellowship.

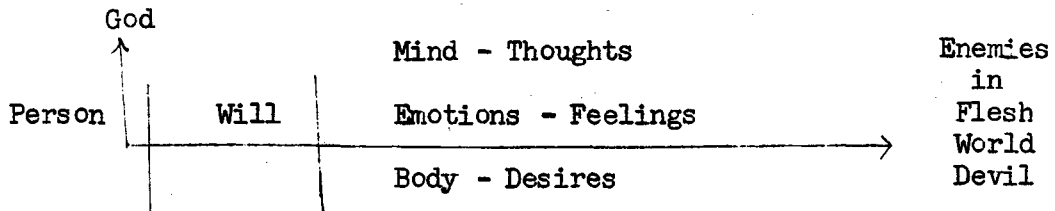
IV. The Biblical Application:

A. We must interpret ourselves and life on the basis of the truth.



B. We must take control of our functions.

1. The Scripture: Rom. 6:11-13; I Cor. 9:27; II Cor. 10:4,5; Gal. 5:22,23.
2. The illustration:



Conclusion: To live like this on a daily basis makes fulfillment certain. These are the keys to our fulfillment.