

Becoming human- giving glory. 22 April_2018.

(PP1) Becoming human- giving glory x 16 Sunday 22 April_2018.

Human condition: live a new life part 2.

Background text READ **ROMANS 11: 33 through to 12: 13.**

Our AIM for this year is to explore what it means to be truly human. Also, I pray that we will seek individually and together to bring greater glory to God by the way we live our lives. The Biblical argument is that true humans are those made and remade in the image and likeness of God. The New Testament developed argument and the belief of Christians is that it is Jesus who shows us what it means to be fully human and who enables those who believe and receive him to enter into the experience of human life in fullness (*John 10: 10*).

(PP2) Falling and Rising of Human Beings?

We have been asking (in previous sessions): **what are the consequence of the Fall – for Humanity?**

“DEATH and Struggle” – including both physical and spiritual mortality has become a part of our human condition (*Genesis 2: 16, 17*). No one is naturally immortal – immortality is a gift of God (*Romans 6: 23. Read Genesis 3: 22*). The fact of our mortality and struggle is something which should challenge our human pride and limits us in a way which makes us creaturely rather than thinking we are gods. “Remember you will die” - (“Memento mori”).

We also have been asking: if there are consequences to **Falling from God’s grace** what are the consequences of the **death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? The consequences are the possible Rising of humanity**. This Easter we have said that Jesus himself epitomises the human struggle for change **and his struggle and victory over sin and death brings about the Redemption of humanity**. Rising in grace as we live our lives since having surrendered to Jesus.

John calls Jesus the PROTOKOS – the first ever to be raised from death never to die again. Paul in *Colossians 1: 15* says Jesus is the *First born of all creation*.

When Jesus was raised by the power of the Spirit from death he extended his arm to raise all to life. *We will all be raised on the judgement day. But will we in life take hold of that for which Christ has taken hold of us (to use the idea of Philippians 3: 12)*.

As Jesus rises from death he enables others to also rise as we take a hold of him and allow him to take a hold of us. He is the first born from the dead. The first of many brothers and sisters. He is the first born of a Resurrection People.

This “dying to sin” and rising with Christ is enacted in Christian baptism according to Paul in *Romans 6:4* *By our baptism then we are buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might **LIVE A NEW LIFE**”* READ on verses 5 following...

(PP3) “Remember your Baptism” (*Heidelberg Confession*) – remember not just the day but what it spoke of and the truths it represented.

By BEING BAPTISED – we have GONE PUBLIC that our old life is dead, and we are raised up to “live a new life”. Faith may well be a very personal, matter but it is lived out in the public arena in full view of relatives, neighbours and colleagues. (*5: 15 God has given us in Jesus Christ the free gift of life*).

Paul is not just describing our state/ condition he is calling for those who follow Jesus to STOP SINNING! He is teaching us about our behaviour and actions. Yes God is gracious and forgiving but that is NOT a reason to live a life that is contradictory to our claim to have surrendered our life to be used and available to God.

Paul speaks with determination and passion – from his heart. We are, he says to aspire with God’s power (*6 v4 power of the Father to live a new life*) and the help of others to:

- Love God with everything we have and
- Love our neighbour, as we love ourself

(PP4) DOXOLOGY: to God be glory forever. In chapter **11 of Romans vv 33 – 36** Paul calls upon Believers to bring praise to God who is worthy of all praise. Those who give glory, who attribute glory to God must first have appreciated who God is and what God has done.

God’s GLORY: the manifest beauty of his holiness. It is the going public of his holiness. It is the way he puts his holiness on display for people to apprehend. (John Piper).
Supremely God has publicly displayed his glory in the person and works of Jesus for all to see and consider their response.

Those who value what God has displayed in Jesus Christ are called to surrender our lives to live for God’s greater glory and with the intention of bringing others to surrender their lives to God.

Romans 12: 1, 2 True worship involves my inner self and my whole body – a living sacrifice. True worship then is not just the words of praise I utter or sing with my lips but the way I live my life.

The chief end of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. (Westminster, and Church of Scotland Confession. 1646) Within this then is the understand that human identity, purpose, meaning and satisfaction are discovered in personal relationship with God. So, our discovery of our true self is inevitably a seeking for the greater glory of God. Perhaps our human desire for satisfaction and meaning should take second place to the seeking of God’s glory – BUT- we are what we are: weak and needy humans. Our priorities and motivations may not always be of the highest order.

The Doxology (call to praise God) has an internal logic as to why we should praise God and seek to attribute glory to God.

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V33 Because RICHES (“a pearl of great price”) are found in God’s plan of Salvation – to raise up human beings. Three rhetorical questions are raised by Paul referring to statements and questions in the books of *Job, Isaiah and Chronicles*.

- Has anyone ever been able to anticipate God?
- Has God ever needed anyone’s advice?
- Has God ever been short of resources and needed to take a loan? (*David Coffey, Romans by Crossway*).

The logic? Praise is due to God as both Creator and Sustainer and everything exists to praise God – to give God glory.

Paul’s logic: **“In the light of God’s mercy”** – I should change my behaviours to match my beliefs about God. Verses 1 and 2 of Romans 12 set the direction for the next 5 chapters. (Read book of *Romans*).

Song: ALL I AM I LAY IT DOWN –

Everything I am, Everything I long to be. I lay it down at your feet. I lay it down.

We have sung this today and the clip is posted on facebook for us to consider: what do I need to lay down today? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mta72yW33NE>

Holistic appeal and response: use your bodies to show mercy, to do righteousness and to be hospitable. Whatever gifts and grace you have use it all to **bring greater glory to God.**

When we offer our bodies and our minds are transformed as living sacrifices then we are truly engaged with worshipping God.

If we want to **please God**, then this is what is required. We are not just talking about being Justified by God but also about being true to the Holy Spirit and Jesus who have come to live within us and also **living to God’s greater glory.**

All of you that say you want to **know the will of God for your lives** here is the answer to your question: *how do I discover the will of God?* **Brothers & sisters together we: -**

- Offer ourselves now, not waiting till we die
- Dedicate ourselves to serve God’s purposes not insisting on our own way
- We agree we will not conform to this world’s standards and attitudes
- Instead we will let God transform the way we think

We will be discussing and thinking in the weeks ahead about how we might help one another to do this. We will remember that we are seeking to **become more truly human and bring greater glory to God.**