



Who am I?

Nothing without genuine love

By Tim Yaw

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Over the last six issues, we have investigated the source of genuine love, gathering enough evidence to prove that genuine love is a sacrificial love that puts others feelings and needs ahead of our own.

Because of our self-centeredness, which puts our needs and feelings ahead of others, humans are incapable of expressing genuine love. While identifying God as a spirit with a personality, we found that his purpose for creating humans was with which to have a loving relationship.

Because all of God's personality traits are centered on love, a relationship is necessary so that his love can be expressed. From that evidence, we found God to be perfectly righteous and holy and found ourselves to be completely opposite. Our uncleanness separates us from God's desired loving relationship simply because God's perfection will not allow communion with imperfection.

We then uncovered evidence provided by God himself in his word, the Holy Bible, that this separation from him will be everlasting, even after our soul departs from its physical body. In other words, it takes a sinless human to have an everlasting relationship with God.

Here is where we found our solution to our sin problem. God came into his created realm as a man yet being completely God under the name of Jesus Christ. Being the God-man, Jesus was that sinless man who met the required criteria needed for an eternal relationship with God.

We were awed to find that Jesus took the sin of the world on himself and died in that sin, thus paying the penalty we were to pay. As if that was not awesome enough, we learned that if we believe in our hearts what Jesus did for us; God not only forgives us of our sin, he also forgets

about it! All we have to do is acknowledge that Jesus paid our debt, ask for that forgiveness and admit we cannot be perfect like God under our own effort.

When we do this and ask God to change our selfish desires, will and emotions (and be willing to allow it), God comes to live in us through his Holy Spirit. We saw in the last issue the righteous and holy fruit that his Spirit produces in us. Something we could never produce no matter how much self-effort, work, knowledge and understanding we put into it.

God shows us through the Bible the result of a self-effort attempt to gain righteousness: "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

Previously in our investigation, after proving that our soul/spirit is the real person we are, we briefly discussed the reality of opposites. Everything has an opposite, so if there is a good spirit, then there has to be an evil spirit. Our pride that seeks its own pleasures and rebels against God is the evil spirit in us.

In the passage above, a person attempts to rid himself of the evil in him under his own effort. Although this effort is sometimes successful, it is only temporary. As seen, the evil spirit leaves but returns finding the house (spirit) clean and in order, yet empty and defenseless. The evil returns, bringing more evil with it, thus putting the temporarily clean spirit in worse condition than before!

You see, no matter how many rituals we perform, no matter how many self-help books we read, no matter how many secular programs we attend, our sin

cannot be permanently cleansed without the power of God. After a battle with this self-effort, a person usually just gives up trying and gives in to their sin.

You can relate to this, because you have probably tried some type of self-cleansing in the past, or maybe you are struggling with it as you read this. I surely can.

God changed me from a cocaine and alcohol abuser by taking away my desire for them. Everything I tried on my own failed, but when I conceded my pride and asked God to change me, within a month those desires were gone.

The fact is we cannot permanently overcome the power of sin on our own. Only through God's power can it be done. We have to recognize him as God and ask him to make the change in us. When we sincerely ask for forgiveness and are willing to let God heal us of our sin, he becomes our life and produces the righteous fruit we discussed earlier. If we could change ourselves, God would have not needed to die for humankind and pay our sin debt.

It all goes back to genuine love, and only God has this sacrificial love. But he is willing to share it with us if we will only lose our pride and ask him to do it! When you do this and see what God does in you, you will proclaim him as Lord of your life and glorify him to others.

Remember, we proved that this is the reason for our existence when we investigated our query: "What is my purpose in this existence?"

We have seen the son of God, Jesus Christ, as being the central person of God in bringing this genuine love to light. In the next issue we will investigate Jesus and discuss the controversial issue of Jesus being "the Way, the Truth and the Life" of our existence both now and forever. You won't want to miss this issue — it may just change your life!

NEW EMPLOYEES



Krista Richards

Job title: The Southern Ute Drum administrative assistant
Description of duties: File paper work, help with budgets, travel requests, advertising, etc.

Hobbies: Writing, drawing, photography (on my own), four-wheeling and archery.

Family: Howard Richards Sr. (Dad), the late Andrea B. Richards (Mom), four brothers and two sisters.

Tribe: Southern Ute, Southern Cheyenne and Pawnee.

SunUte Community Center



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