

Living With Uncommon Sense (Part 2)

The Bible recognizes two - and only two - categories of human life: life "in Adam" or life "in Christ". In a fallen world, life "in Adam" is common. It is "me-ological", self-serving, and often hostile to grace and truth. Life "in Christ" is different. Alive by the saving Life of Christ, it can abide under the influence of His indwelling Spirit and express His life in quite an uncommon fashion. Full of the grace and truth that belongs to Christ, life in Christ may live with uncommon sense in a senseless world.

To live as one under the influence of Christ's amazing grace and liberating truth calls for a continuous beholding of Him. No occasional look or casual glance in His direction will do - only a fixed and focused attentiveness upon Him will suffice. Jesus Himself made this quite clear in John 6:40, "...everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life..."

Why "behold" Him? Because in every crisis He is my resolution. Whatever may be too much for "just me" is never too much for "Christ in me." No word of God to me is without the power of Christ in me. In fact, God will often press us into what is impossible for me to reveal what is possible for Christ in me (Matt 19:26). Doesn't He always put Himself between the seeker and the thing being sought? "Are you seeking forgiveness? heaven? love? truth? grace? peace? joy? Uncommon life?", He asks. "Fine", He says, "you will simply have to go through Me to experience it!" We must "behold" Him until we see Him as our word, our supply, our source for all we need.

Beholding Christ has transformative power (Jo 1:39; II Cor 3:18). We keep looking at Him until we see Him, know Him for Who He is (Jo 1:1,9,14,18; Eph 4:20; Heb 1:1-3). Maybe it is time we stop asking God to watch over us and we start watching Him. In the truth and reality of Who He is, perhaps the false, the unreal, the illusory will move to the periphery where it all belongs.

We keep looking at Him until we see ourselves (in His eyes, "as in a mirror" - II Cor 3:18). The only route to finding our true identities as "Christ-ones" is by seeing ourselves as He sees us (Eph 1:4, for example!). Until we see things through the lens of our godly self-image, we see very little rightly or clearly.

We keep looking at Him in the moment-by-moment "stuff" of life - the stuff we're in at the present time. Truth and grace that transforms the common into the uncommon is not for where we wish we were, but for where we are. (Eph 5:20; Phil 4:4; Ps 118:24) In the crisis we tend to look for the way to God in it all. Actually, what we are in IS the way to God! Our circumstances His "agents", our body and soul reactions His "escorts"... inviting us, pressing us into His uncommon "sense" which will be more than enough for glorifying Him in what seems to be a senseless world.

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Greetings

Every now and then God reminds me of all you who have made this ministry possible down through the years. I think of people in different parts of the country - New York, Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina (only to name a few!). Places I've gone regularly for over 30 years and somehow keep getting invited back.

I think of how we've been warmly welcomed by the family of God here in Florida - local churches, partnerships, and neighbors. Two ongoing small groups with some of the original participants that are also over 30 years running!

I can never overlook those who've contributed their resources - time, energy, money and such - to keep us housed, fed, and able to continuously do what we do without ever charging a fee or asking for support. It is all of grace... and it really is amazing!

Your friendship, your fellowship, your encouragement, your faithful presence - and so much more - really are the "lifeblood" of this ministry. Thank you - all of you and each of you - for being One in Christ!

CALENDAR

JULY


2,9,23,30	FBCA
11	Alachua Study
13-16	Waymart, PA (607-341-6062)
25	Ocala Study


SEPTEMBER


7-10	Louisville, KY Men's Retreat (502-664-5622)
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 Uninhibited face-to-faceness with Christ

 Uncommon sense for a senseless world

 Grace to finish well in running the race
Christ has set before us

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