

Learning to drink and eat from Him

1 Cor 10:3-4

They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Intro

Six basic human needs that are as fundamental to the soul as food and drink are to the body. They are the need for:

- Identity
- Love
- Acceptance
- Belonging
- Security
- Significance

Most of our human behavior, drive and motivations are about meeting these fundamental needs of our soul.

Religion and the world make us work to get these need meet.

But thank God for the Gospel - the good news!

Here is the Gospel - In Christ we are given glory and honor to meet these needs and then work with the Lord from a position of glory and honor - we don't work to get glory and honor we receive it!

How?

1. Jesus is the Rock on which we are built!

Matthew 16:13-18

Peter's Confession of Christ

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Jesus, the Rock

The revelation of who Jesus is The Rock on which the Church is built.

Am I building my life on the Rock?

In the Light of who Jesus is, we see the light of who we are.

Cr Ps 36:9

He is the only sure and secure foundation on which my life can and should be built as a Christian. Cr 1 Cor 3:11

1. Jesus is the Word of God – He came full of truth.

John 1:1-18

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Jesus is the Word. The Word became flesh!

The Word of God is truth. Cr John 17:17. Jesus came full of truth.

Think about it ...

Truth on its own - like the Law which came through Moses - brings religion and it is not so glorious.

2. Jesus came full of Grace as well.

Two basic types of grace that exist - we need to understand both types to grasp the fullness of Jesus grace to us. The forgiving grace of God and the empowering grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

We see that there are various forms of grace.

3.1 The Forgiving Grace of God

Jesus' blood and cross

John 1:29

Jesus the Lamb of God

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:9

Vs 9. "Everyman" - Jesus is a universal Saviour.

John 1:12

Vs 12. Jesus gives us the right, authority & power to become children of God!
You receive the Spirit of Sonship!

Romans 8:13-17

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

John 14:18

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 1:16

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

Think of all the blessing that flows to you at the point of salvation:

What causes us to receive one blessing after another?

Answer: The fullness of Jesus' grace!

Jesus imparts to us His forgiving grace on the cross where He dies in our place for the forgiveness of our sins. The punishment that we deserve because of our sins was laid upon Jesus and because He was punished for our sins we have been given peace with God, the Father, who has forgiven us and declared us not guilty because of what Jesus has done for us on our behalf.

The above truth is the foundation of our faith and is the only way in which we can relate to God the Father and have access and entrance into His glorious presence. It is the bed rock of Christian truth and the truth on which all our other truth is built.

Colossians 1:12-14

"joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

At the moment we are saved, without anything we have done, expect believing in Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross - we are qualified and accepted in the beloved. Eph 2:13

We get the following imparted to us for free solely on the basis of what Jesus has done for us on our behalf:

1. I am qualified - no longer rejected and/or disqualified.
2. I become a saint - no longer a sinner.
3. To receive an eternal inheritance - not eternal damnation.
4. I am transferred into a different kingdom - out of the kingdom of satan and darkness and into the kingdom of Jesus, the Son whom the Father loves, and light.

5. I receive a new head, satan was my head and the authority over my life but not Jesus is my head and the authority over my life.

5. I am redeemed - no longer a slave to sin. My destiny was eternal hell, damnation and destruction (the same as my old head) but not my destiny in eternal glory, heaven, life and salvation (the same as my new head). (Check out a dictionary definition. The basic idea, biblical idea, is that I was bought at the slave market of sin by Jesus' blood.)

6. The Forgiveness of all our sins!

All this because of Jesus', work on my behalf. Cr John 6:28-29. The work that the Father requires from me is to believe in the One He has sent - Jesus. Cr John 3:16. All that is required from me is to accept His, the Father's gift to me, Jesus.

Nothing I have done, expect admitting I am a sinner and in need of God's forgiving grace which comes to me through faith in Jesus Christ's life, death & resurrection.

Now that is awesome.

Think about it ...

Truth on its own produces religion.

Truth with the Forgiving Grace of God - can produce - worldliness.

When the church only understands and accepts half of the truth of the gospel and half of God's grace that is available to them. Then the church can live in a cycle of sin/forgive sin/forgive sin/forgive. They understand that they have the freedom of choice but they get nailed by the consequences of wrong choices and so live in bondage to those choices.

They are forgiven but not free. They can live a defeated life where sin is still their master and the empowered victorious life of Christ eludes them. They don't have a great testimony and don't set a good example. But they are forgiven for their sins, but not free from their sins.

Romans 2:17-24

The Jews and the Law

Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth- you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

From this passage we can see that the church can know a part of the truth and receive forgiveness for their sins but they might not still have a great testimony and not set a good example. Why? Because they are forgiven for their sins, but not free from their sins.

A church like this can be building with wood, hay stubble and straw.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

There is little or no glory here.

3.2 The Empowering Grace of God

Jesus is the one who Baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be all we are created, called, destined and anointed to be in God.

John 1:33-34

“I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”

Titus 2:11-13

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

We have been given the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Sonship - this is our Identity as children of God.

Romans 8:13-17

“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

3.3 Water Baptism is the vital link between the Forgiving Grace of God and the Empowering Grace of God.

In water baptism we see both graces fully displayed!

We are identified with Jesus’ death of the cross as we go under the water. It is our watery grave. We die to sin, the world, the flesh and the devil. They are no longer our masters! We are forgiven, we are washed, we are cleansed - this points us back to the blood of Jesus and the cross of Christ. The Forgiving Grace of God.

We are also identified with Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. As Jesus did not stay dead in the tomb but was raised by the power of God’s Spirit. We don’t stay under the water when we are baptized, we are raised up out of the water. We are raised to a new life in Christ Jesus, a life lived and empowered by the Holy Spirit! The Empowering Grace of God.

Think about it ...

Now that is glorious. When we are full of the Word of God, full of truth and by that truth we understand the fullness of the forgiving grace of God, that He forgave all our sins and adopted us into His Royal Family as Sons and Daughters of the King, as well as understanding the fullness of the empowering grace of God to live a life of victory over sin, free from sin’s power and consequence over us, free to live the life God the Father has destined and prepared for us, in His Kingdom here on earth, now. NOW, that is glorious!

This is what John is saying in John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Listen to the words of the Song: “Rock of Ages”

“Rock of Ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Let the water and the blood, which from thou riven side did flow.

Be for me of sins double cure, to save me from it’s guilt and power.”

Blood - the forgiving grace of God which deals with sin’s guilt

&

Water - the empowering grace of God, the Person of the Holy Spirit, He deals with sin’s power and empowers me to live above it.

Jesus is Glorious and He wants us to share in His glory!

3.4 Jesus Baptism – is the perfect example of this.

Jesus Baptism - is the perfect example of what The Father, Son and Holy Spirit wants to see taking place in the life of a believer at their point of salvation and baptism.

In the book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament we see most believed were Saved, Baptized and filled with the Spirit at the same time because they had the full gospel preached to them and they understood it fully.

Today only half the gospel is preached and not the full gospel. That is why there is little or no glory in the church and that is why there is so much religion and worldliness in the church today. Let’s get back to the full gospel and God original intent!

Michael Eton - calls Jesus’ Baptism the preliminaries for ministry.

Did Jesus need to be Baptized by John?

Well - yes and no.

No - because John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance and Jesus had no need of repentance as He has no sin. (See Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts [13:24](#) & 19:4) Jesus, as Peter declares in 1 Pet [1:18-19](#), is the perfect lamb without defect, which means He had committed no sin and therefore did not need to repent at all and therefore had no need to be baptized by John for repentance.

Yes - because The Father was imparting more of the Spirit to Jesus at His baptism so He could be empowered for His earthly ministry and fulfill His destiny in God.

So why did He, Jesus, get Baptised? We believe Jesus was baptized for the following reasons:

1. In obedience to His Fathers leading so the signs that God had given John the Baptist could be fulfilled and Jesus could be pointed out as the Messiah. Cr John 1:31;33
2. He was intentionally setting us an example so that we could follow Him and be baptized as well, which is what we believe Jesus asks each of His born again children and followers to do. Cr Mat 3:15

Why? Why do you think Jesus wants us to be baptised in water like He was?

Although Jesus did not need to be baptized by John we see that some very significant things took place at His baptism.

The preliminaries to ministry

3. Up until Jesus' baptism He had not yet started His earthly ministry, however, after His baptism, He started His ministry on earth.
If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you have become a born again child of God and your Heavenly Father has got destiny written over your life. He has got things that He planned in advance for you to walk in with Him. (See Eph 2:8-10 especially vs. 10) We believe your baptism like Jesus' baptism is a very significant time and prepares you to walk in the destiny that God, the Father, has planned for you.
4. At Jesus baptism He is encouraged, empowered and commissioned by the Father, with the Holy Spirit, for His earthly ministry and to do the job that He is called to do.
5. Jesus is also identified as the Son of God and that identity is confirmed, validated and encouraged by the Father.

We need to follow that example and follow in Jesus footsteps. This is why Jesus wants us to be baptised in water as He was.

We need to understand that we are human beings, 1st and foremost, not human doings. The Lord wants us to be something and know we are someone before we rush off and we do somethings for Him instead of with Him.

Like Jesus, God the Father, wants us to know that we are His children and as His children we are:

- loved,
- adopted,
- accepted,
- belong,
- free
- forgiven.

He wants us to be settled and secure in our identity as His sons and daughters. He wants us to know that we are His royal, blood washed and blood bought children that have:

- value,
- identity,
- security,
- belonging,
- acceptance,
- significance
- and love from Him.

E.g. children born in royalty.

These are the basic human needs of the soul and are as necessary to be met, if we are to be mature, secure, stable Christians, as hunger and thirst are necessary for the body to grow and be strong and healthy.

E.g. Marketing and sales management - we were taught to connect your product to these basic soul needs and make sure the consumer needs and uses your products to meet these basic needs. Then you will always have a demand for your product and will have a great foundation for a powerful brand.

You see God, the Father, does not want us to do anything for Him... He wants us to do stuff with Him. Religious slaves do stuff for their masters, but Secure, Stable and Mature Sons and Daughters of the Kingdom do stuff with their Glorious Heavenly Dad. God is our Father, now and He does not want us to be religious slaves that do stuff for Him on our own. He wants us to be sons and daughters in His house that do stuff with Him in relationship to Him. Remember Eph. 2:10, Cr John 15:4

Jesus is getting baptized and what does God, the Father, speak over him in verse 17?
Answer: You are my son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased.

The Father settles Jesus' identity; He settles Jesus' Sonship. Up until this point Jesus had done nothing for God other than be born and God, the Father, declares His love for Him just because He loves Him and chooses to love Him nothing else, because Jesus has done nothing else at this point.

You as a child of God need to accept God's love for you just because you are His child and He wants to set His love on you and for no other reason! Don't try and earn God's love, acceptance and approval. Why? Because it has already been given to you through your salvation and by Jesus' performance on your behalf.

In and under the New Covenant in God's Kingdom you work from a position of sonship and not to become a son of God. You and I don't work to become children of God because we already are the children of God and have been made that way by Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension. We are the children of God because we have accepted Jesus work on our behalf and in our place. In this world God wants us to walk and work as His sons and daughters. We do not work to become His sons and daughters.

This is an amazing truth and it needs to settle in our hearts.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Firstly, we are God, the Father's workmanship created anew in Christ Jesus - that is sonship - identity.

Secondly, comes the doing - fulfilling our destiny. Those things God has planned for us to do, which were prepared in advance for us to do, they were destined for us to walk in. But we walk in them, in relationship with our heavenly Dad and He empowers and enables to do them with His strength and power given through the person of the Holy Spirit and not in our own strength.

We are human beings first and then comes the doing and not the other way around.

We see all this happening at Jesus baptism and that is why baptism is so important! It prepares you for ministry as a child of God and not as religious slave. It affirms your identity as a child of God and in doing that it prepares you to discover your destiny in God and walk out the plan and purpose that God has got for you in relationship with Him as His child.

Is this not amazing?!?!

Baptism, you see, is a link between the amazing forgiving grace of God and the amazing empowering grace of God and it helps us to understand the whole Gospel in all its fullness.

Think about it...

This is the full gospel - the forgiveness of sins, the deliverance from a life of sin, the freedom to live a new life in relationship with the Glorious Heavenly Father, a life empowered by the Holy Spirit and all this on account of what Jesus has done for you on your behalf. Not of yourself. Now that is where the glory is! That is why Jesus came full of glory.

Another aspect that is important to note from Jesus baptism is that the whole Trinity is involved. The Son is the one being empowered and affirmed. The Father is speaking words of love, life and encouragement over Jesus, imparting Identity and blessing over His life and the Holy Spirit is empowering and filling with the ability to do His ministry and walk in His destiny.

Jesus is our example and we can expect the same things to happen to us as we follow His example. Baptism is a time where our identity as a child of God is affirmed. Words of life, love and encouragement from the Father should be spoken over us through the church. It is a time when we can pray for an initial or further Infilling of the Holy Spirit into the life of the one being Baptized so they are fully prepared to walk in the destiny that the Father has planned in advance for them to walk in. Of course, Jesus has made all of this possible through His life, death, resurrection and accession into heaven.

Like Jesus, we need to allow the Glorious Heavenly Father to validate and impart our identity as His child to us at our baptism. This is to become the most defining thing about us - that we are children of the Sovereign Lord and King of the Universe. It, our sonship/daughtership, needs to give us our sense of love, acceptance, security, significance, identity and belonging.

When other things like our career, money, home, car, clothe, education etc. define us and gives us our sense of love, acceptance, identity and belonging, we need to be careful because when a good thing becomes a God thing in our life that is idolatry.

As to Jesus function, He served the Father by serving, us, the Father's children.

We need to understand that the Father - has accepted us and not rejected us, He loves us and does not hate us, and lastly that He is pleased with us and not displeased with us. He is pleased with our personhood, who we are as His children. He is not always pleased with our behaviour e.g. when we ignore Him and disobey Him He is not pleased with that, but that does not change His love, acceptance and pleasure of us as His children.

It is import to understand you are not a reject, a mistake or second hand goods. You are an amazing child of God, chosen, loved, accepted and pleasing to Him! This is to produce within you a security and a settledness. All of this based on your sonship your daughtership as a child of the King, because of who Jesus is and what Jesus did for you and on your behalf and not your performance.

The Father does not want us to be motivated by fear, guilt, condemnation or shame - the devil, through the world and religion uses these things to motivate and drive people but not the Lord. He, the Glorious Heavenly Father, wants us to be motivated by His love, His pleasure, His acceptance of us. When He gives us instructions that are hard, we are to remember these things and to trust in His character and nature as our good Father, knowing He always wants what is best for us and therefore we should obey Him because we know and trust Him.

Never doubt God's love, acceptance and pleasure over you as His child. When you have messed up that is the time to run to Him and tell Him about it. Don't wallow in self-pity. Get up, come to Him in repentance, access His forgiving grace by confessing your sin and then continue to follow hard after Him and His purpose for your life, by His empowering grace through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus as to His function, served the Father by serving us the Father's children and laying His life down for us.

We, like Jesus, are now the children of God and He invites us to serve Him by serving people. How? By being involved in the Great Commission and sharing the Gospel with those He brings across our path. We will face rejection, opposition, scorn and contempt like Jesus did, but we can face it because Jesus has set us an example to follow.

You don't have to wait to be a witness for Jesus you can start right now, sharing your testimony about what Jesus has done for you.

3. Jesus received Glory and Honor from the Father so He could bring Glory and Honor to the Father.

Lastly, to confirm all that we have said above, I want us to read what Peter, one Jesus disciples, teaches us about what Jesus received at His baptism.

2 Peter 1:16-18

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

What did Jesus receive when the Father spoke to Him on the mountain? Answer: Glory and honour.

Glory and honour in God's kingdom are received and not earned or deserved!

God, the Glorious Heavenly Father first spoke these words over Jesus at His Baptism and as we have seen from the passage above He speaks them again over Jesus' life on the Mount of Transfiguration. This was as Jesus was just about to conclude His earthly ministry. The Glorious Heavenly Father is preparing Jesus for His last week in Jerusalem and ultimately His death on the cross. (See Mat 17:5)

This the Gospel once again!

Through Jesus we have received sonship and adoption into God's family and therefore we receive glory and honour! (See John 8:31-58; Rev 5:9-10)

As Jesus then walked out His destiny on earth and did the things that God had prepared in advance for Him to walk in. He brought glory and honour back to God, the Glorious Heavenly Father, by doing the works He had called Jesus to do and had prepared in advance for Jesus to do with Him and for His glory.

Cr John 17:1-5

John 17:1

"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."

John 17:4

"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."

Jesus told His disciples in Mathew 10:8b "Freely you have received, now freely give."

As we receive, glory and honour, at our baptism from the glorious heavenly Father, He empowers us to live out His plans and purposes for our lives and in doing so we, like Jesus, bring Him glory and honour.

Think about it...

Can you think of anything better to do with your life? Than to live out what God, the glorious heavenly Father, has planned and purposed for you in advance before He made you. Then as He recreates you anew in Christ Jesus, He imparts to you the glory and honour you need to do all that He has planned and purposed for you.

John 5:19

Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:7-8

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. **This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:15-16

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

I want to encourage you to make a decision to get baptised in Water and in The Spirit so you can receive every good and perfect gift that comes from above that God, the glorious heavenly Father wants to pour out into and onto your life!

Pray for people and anoint them with oil.