Subject: In Our Image
Posted by william on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 16:46:23 GMT
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Hombre,

In the thread "Marriage" you made this observation:

Quote:To encapsulate:

William is saying:

Marriage is about MORE than a piece of paper (The divorce statistics ought to be enough to tell anyone that)....but he (William) leaves it for us to determine/recognize/understand/ discern for ourselves what that is...he assumes that we know.

'.....For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)...' ~ Rom 2:14-15

..and indeed we DO know...even those who are NOT saved know. We should begin to stop this nonsense that those outside of the church (i.e. the unsaved/unregenerated) don't have minds to think with. They most certainly do, I have just quoted Gods' Word which declares that He Himself has already written His laws into their hearts ('by nature' : i.e. they are born with this intrinsic knowledge).

People CHOOSE to do what they do, and the consequences are a result of their choices. That is why those who reject Christ are competent to stand trial before God on that day: they KNEW what was right, yet they chose to reject it.

All of the moral laws that have been written, including those which God HImself has written into the hearts of unregenerate men have shown little evidence of being respected or followed because they exist. This is the lesson that God has attempted to teach mankind from the garden through the dispensation of Moses law. It is not about what one CAN or CAN'T do, it is about the heart and whether we will make choices based upon what we know to be good, righteous etc., for bigger reasons than simply and blindly

following road signs, because they are there.

That does not discount however, the fact that the law in it's purpose was/is good.

Specifically you mention the idea that we gentiles have God's law written on our hearts... this got me to thinking about the creation of man.

Obviously Paul makes this statement and I take it at face value, but do you think (or anyone else) that he is saying that the Jews did not have this internal knowledge and the gentiles did? I assume the answer is no (although I do think it is interesting that Paul phrased it in the way he did!).

But to continue...

At what point did this knowledge-written-on-the-heart appear? At the formation of the man, or did it come later when God actually gave the command to Adam? Or did it come after Adam and Eve disobeyed?

I don't have an answer myself, only questions! Perhaps someone has some insight that will benefit us all.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by james on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 20:50:23 GMT
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Those are some deep questions there William. Surely it came after Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But then again, maybe not; because they already knew not to do it. But they knew it from the mouth of God, when He told them what they could and couldn't do. Eve made the choice to disobey, by listening to the serpent, and Adam didn't didn't do any better by allowing her to influence him into eating it. Maybe from that point on, God wrote it upon the hearts of all mankind.

So I'm thinking God didn't write it upon Adam and Eve's hearts, because He told them personally. But from that point on He wrote upon all men's hearts the knowledge of right and wrong or good and evil.

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by william on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 21:06:18 GMT
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You may be right... but because God gave the power of procreation to man, and since the original sin was passed down from Adam, wouldn't it be more consistent to pass the "knowledge of sin" through procreation as well?

As I write that I'm thinking: "How can you pass "knowledge" through procreation?" I'm not sure of the answer...

Apparently this "knowledge" is written upon the conscience. When the conscience is matured (at the age of accountability?) we are certainly responsible for acting upon this knowledge.

I'm to the point in the theology class that deals with the creation of man (body, soul, and spirit), which is why I'm dwelling on the subject.

Last week was a blast! Predestination and Election... everybody jumped in! I think it is a "freewill" Church... but hey, they let me come back yesterday!!

I'm loosely following the outline of HEF's Theology Book coupled with material from Bancroft's and Strong's theology.

I'll post an analogy (that you all can pick apart!) in another section.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by james on Sat, 28 Feb 2009 12:58:47 GMT
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William,

I think it is AWSOME that God had opened a door for you to share the knowledge and wisdom you've received. Also I wonder if the door would have been opened if you had sat at home like so many of us do? I pray God will bring forth fruit from these seeds you're sowing.

So the struggle continues, what to do about Heb.10:25 when we can't find a new testament church?

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 28 Feb 2009 15:10:09 GMT
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So the struggle continues, what to do about Heb.10:25 when we can't find a new testament church?

James we might ponder this:

Mk 16:14-20, 14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.
15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord

working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. (KJV)

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 28 Feb 2009 16:08:37 GMT
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James,

This is my motto:(I got it from Hombre)

Creating upheaval in the unbelieving church through the doctrines of the Word of God,one moment, one thought, one person at a time.

But ya got to be there,to do this.

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by james on Sat, 28 Feb 2009 18:53:36 GMT
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So are you saying that you attend an unbelieving church and are creating upheavel within it by teaching the doctrines of God's Word, one on one, one at a time?
Wow! You've either got the fastest growing church in America, or they hate you and want to throw you out, cause that's what happened to Jesus. They either flocked to Him to see the miracles and be feed or they sought to kill Him.

'And these signs shall follow them that BELIEVE; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.'

Is this happening through you or around you, or are you still in the 'pondering' stage? Just asking, if God is working in the assembly you attend and they're receiving the truth of God's Word, praise God...please share some testimonies with us to encourage and build us up. I'm not arguing with scriptures, I believe them, I just don't know of where these signs and wonders are being confirmed by Jesus.

I want to believe it's happening somewhere...

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 28 Feb 2009 21:58:15 GMT
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Bro James,

I go where the Spirit leads. I take what little knowledge I have and Believe that He will fill my mouth with the right words to affect the hearts of those that hear me. Not all receive, but some have turn to the Word and received it gladly.

Yes, I am still pondering, but I am also going too ! Iâ€™ve shared testimonies of what God has done, you can review my posts.

Blessings

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by william on Sun, 01 Mar 2009 03:10:18 GMT
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On Sat, 28 Feb 2009, James wrote:

>
>
> William,
>
> I think it is AWSOME that God had opened a door for you to share the
> knowledge and wisdom you've received. Also I wonder if the door would
> have been opened if you had sat at home like so many of us do? I pray
> God will bring forth fruit from these seeds you're sowing.
>
> So the struggle continues, what to do about Heb.10:25 when we can't find
> a new testament church?
>
>

You probably are not going to find a "new testament church". I think we ought to just accept that reality. Not saying that God can't raise one up, but we've all been wandering around now for 20+ years, and I could

count the number of times I've been close to a NT assembly on the fingers of an amputee. I don't think any of us (with maybe the exception of the Kentucky group!) would argue with that.

Once you face that reality, then you can get rid of a couple more crazy notions like:

1) I'm looking for a church where I can get fed.

Ha, Ha...

I hate to be so negative, but face it, it ain't going to happen. If you haven't already taken your spiritual growth into your own hands, then I'm not sure if you are serious about Christianity. (Using "you" in a general sense here.)

2) God hasn't led me to attend any of the churches in my area. (Just like He hasn't led you to a NT assembly?)

This goes along with the statement brother Freeman once made about the dangers of darkening the door of a denominational church, which, of course, gives us an excuse to not be "led" to any of the churches in your area!

Which brings us to Heb 10:25-- Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

You can certainly justify not attending any church (we all understand what is meant by the term "church", right?) if there aren't any Christians present, as the verse has in mind like-minded-christian-believers, and not the church building and/or denomination. However, if there are Christians who regularly assemble, be it in a denominational church building, or otherwise, then I think that it is fitting that we attempt to fellowship with these believers. They may be but babes in Christ, but what difference should that make? Hasn't God called the strong to bear up the weak??? I'm not saying that you need to yoke yourselves up to some dead or dying assembly, but that shouldn't keep us from assembling with them on occasion. Who knows what kind of anointing that you might impart to them?

Paul, who never complained that he wasn't being fed in church, didn't let

a synagogue stop him from spreading the good news! If he got kicked out, he just went to another denomination/synagogue for the next weekly service, and if that didn't work, he just started up a new assembly! (The latter being a tougher proposition, Kemosahbee.)

We, on the other hand, love to shake the dust from off our feet, but paradoxically settle down in the same city we were supposed to leave! Like Lot, who settled down in the wicked city of Sodom, without a clue about whether or not God was going to do anything further with the city (bad or good).

So, wherever you find yourself, know this, God is either going to save the city because of you, or he is going to save you from the city (as long as someone with the faith of Abraham is willing to intercede on your behalf!).

I'm being a bit dramatic of course, just to make a point, but I really don't think that we have the option of sitting on the sidelines waiting for some miraculous "NT-like-Church" to appear on the scene.

It is so easy to not go anywhere on Sundays. It is tough to rouse yourself and go to a place that doesn't offer you much of anything.

There are at least two benefits for going to the synagogue-of-choice in your city.

1) Discipline. Just getting your lazy butt up will do wonders for you!

2) You'll find out that there are others out there that are hungry for God's Word, and you should be able to help with that need. They cannot help the fact that their "leaders" have not fulfilled the basic commission to study to show themselves approved of God. These people are, in many cases, unaware that there is more to Christianity than what they have experienced... you could change that!

Our motto should be the same as an old cowboy's classified ad: Have horse, will travel!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by james on Sun, 01 Mar 2009 03:34:56 GMT
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William wrote:

" 1) Discipline. Just getting your lazy butt up will do wonders for you!"

I understand where you're coming from with this statement, and won't take offence with it. I personally, get 'my lazy butt' up between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m. and do my daily reading of The Word and time with The Lord, then walk for 3 miles. Every other day I go to the fitness center and work out with weights for muscle tone and conditioning.

So I agree, discipline is good, both spiritual, mental, and physical.

I can't and won't argue with your statements about 'church'...maybe I just need to give it another go...

Thanks for taking the time to share on this snowy Alabama night.

I do want to believe also,

james

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by william on Sun, 01 Mar 2009 03:50:11 GMT
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I certainly didn't mean for you to take my note personally... I meant it
all in a general way. These are issues that I have struggled with since
FA... and the lazy butt comment, well that too is from my own experience.

I love to laze around on Sunday!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by james on Sun, 01 Mar 2009 03:59:51 GMT
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I didn't, and understand what you were saying. I was just saying lazy is not one of the things I'm believing The Lord on.

God bless,

(Get those snow tires or chains on tonight, or you won't make it to Sunday School in the morning...<grin>

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by william on Sun, 01 Mar 2009 04:04:41 GMT
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I can't believe that we'll get much but...

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Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by james on Mon, 02 Mar 2009 17:16:02 GMT
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Hombre, so are you saying women act the way they do because of DNA?

And I know you can't explain that...

I just saw on the news that an Ohio woman was stopped by police for breast feeding her child while driving....and talking on her cell phone at the same time...

You got to hand it to her, she takes multi-tasking to the next level....she says she wasn't about to let her child go hungry.

She should'a blamed it on her DNA...

Subject: Re: In Our Image
Posted by GWB on Mon, 02 Mar 2009 22:53:33 GMT
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James wrote:

I just saw on the news that an Ohio woman was stopped by police for breast feeding her child while driving.

GWB writes:

Hey, you used to not be a true overcoming women at FA unless you knew how to do this! It was the only way to make it to all of the meetings!

No offense taken with the blonde jokes Hombre. I happen to be a blonde... ...but now it is out of a box!