

Connected to Intercede

In our connection to God in Christ, we become “co-heirs” with Christ (Ro 8:16-17). How did that happen? We were “co-crucified” with Christ (Ro 6:6; Ga 2:20), “co-buried” with Christ (Ro 6:4; Col 2:12), “co-raised” with Christ (Ro 6:4; Eph 2:6), “co-seated” with Christ (Eph 1:20; 2:6) – fully “co-rected” (rectified = put back on course)! This is what it means to be made “new creations” (II Cor 5:17).

This is what Christ did for us and in us. Now He wants to do something through us, as us. He has, in fact, “co-missioned” us to be “co-laborers” and “co-lovers” (Acts 1:8; II Cor 6:1; I Cor 3:9; Jo 13:34; Eph 5:2). The new life – His – we have received is to be put in the service of others (Matt 10:8; II Cor 9:8). If we want to live with uncommon sense in a senseless world we better get used to that!

In the Bible (Old Testament and New) we call that “intercession” (Is 53:12; Heb 7:25). Intercession is not a “job” we perform, it is a life we live – His (Col 3:4). God’s intercession is voluntary, freely chosen (Phil 2:5-8). The interceder says simply, “I’ll be for others”, then finds a gap and fills it, sees a need and runs to it, observes a deficiency and steps in with God’s supply. Intercession is the voluntary offering of ourselves to God for the sake of another. Then the Uncommon Life of Christ flows through our common selves... as us!

God is not looking for a sinless performer – He has that in Christ living in us. He is looking for a willing vessel. It is not even what we do (God does the interceding), it is who we are now because of Christ our Life. In our “co-rected” He threw out of us the spirit of self-interest, self-service, self-exaltation (Jo 2:13-16). It is not who we are any longer. He issues each of us a command invitation to “co-operate” with His operation – “He always lives to make intercession” (Heb 7:25). We step out of self-service into the service of others, out of “What’s in it for me?” into “What’s in it for others?”, out of the practice of exposing “dirty feet” into the practice of washing “dirty feet”.

Compelled by His loving intercession our lives increasingly become out-lived, emptied out, poured our lives (Phil 2:5-7). We seek to identify with God’s interests in the lives of others and offer ourselves as “living sacrifices” to God for their sakes (Ro 12:1-2). Then His original and ultimate intention – to love the world to Himself – becomes our personal and ultimate privilege (Phil 2:17).



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Greetings

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale
My Anchor holds withing the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Ever feel like things are hopeless? Nothing left to
lean on? Does it seem like life is one storm after
another and the cultural anchors are giving way?
So flooded with bad news that all our "props" are
ready to crumble? Think again!

On Christ the Solid Rock we stand;
All other ground is sinking sand!
I repeat - All that other ground is sinking sand!
The strongest legs are of no use in sinking sand.
Weak legs, however, on Solid Rock, will be just
fine.

✂ Calendar ✂

AUGUST	
6,13,20,27	FBCA
8	Alachua Study
SEPTEMBER	
7-10	Louisville, KY Men's Retreat (502-664-5622)
23-30	Redmond, OR

✋ Praise and Prayer ✝

✋	Our Solid Rock
✋	God's love in us for others will never die
✝	Eyes to see genuine need
✝	For the world's need & God's supply to meet through us