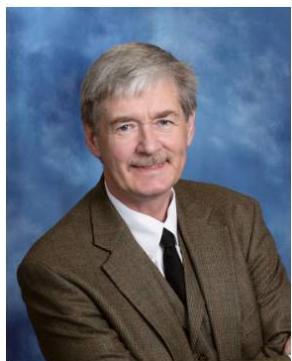


Pastor's Minutes . .

Being a "Nut" About Jesus!

There was a story once about a U.S. Navy pilot describing his complicated helicopter to his parents. He said there was just one small hexagon nut that held the main rotor to the mast on top of the helicopter. He asked his parents if they knew the name of that nut. Of course, his parents did not. So, with a smile, he answered his own question: "They call it a Jesus nut."



To some people, that answer may sound rather irreverent. Yet, to name the nut 'a Jesus nut' can be explained. If that small nut ever came loose or fell off, the helicopter would not be able to stay in the air and would come crashing to the ground. So, it is understandable why pilots in the Vietnam War era gave the little hexagon part the name "the Jesus nut."

The apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians tells that Jesus Christ "...is the image of the invisible God...in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created.... He himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (1:15, 17; NRSV) Because of Jesus, we live in a created and ordered universe, not a chaotic accident. He made all reality, and He keeps everything together, keeping the cosmos from collapsing.

We also see that Jesus Christ holds things together for eternity: "For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross." (1:19-20) Jesus can and does restore our relationship with God as our heavenly Father, and redeems us from the eternal penalty of sin through His self-sacrifice on the cross. This means that He alone can join us to the God who created us out of boundless love, who redeems us out of unconditional love, and who wants to guide us out of unlimited love.

If you ever feel that life is crashing down around you, don't you believe it! Remember that Jesus holds the strings of the universe together, and can hold your life together, as well, giving peace and confidence to each one of us in the midst of any circumstances. That is why I want to be a "nut" about Jesus, or at least a little crazy about Him!

See you Sunday at the "crazy about Jesus" place.

Keith G Knight